

BRINGING THE PAST TO LIFE

D-DAY: THE GREATEST BATTLE IN HISTORY

As told by the men who were there



HISTORY REVEALED

LAST DAYS OF THE INCAS

Why the Spanish Conquest was a dark tale of deceit, betrayal and murder

LSD, torture and the CIA

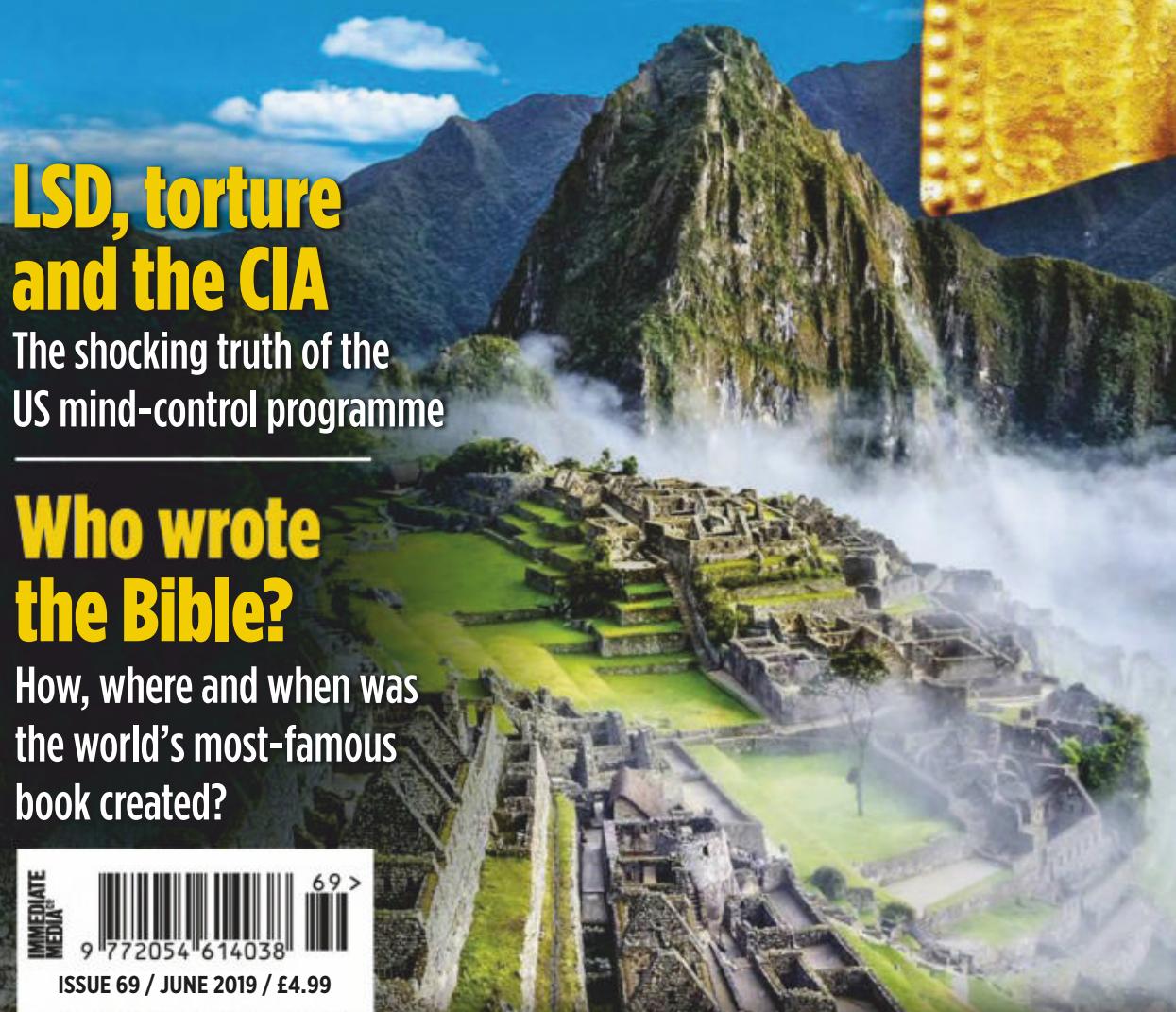
The shocking truth of the US mind-control programme

Who wrote the Bible?

How, where and when was the world's most-famous book created?



PLUS **Lucrezia Borgia: is her bad reputation deserved? • The Vikings raid Britain**





Francesca Giordano

UK Incoming Passengers,
Leghorn, Italy - London, England
5 July 1919, S.S. Junin

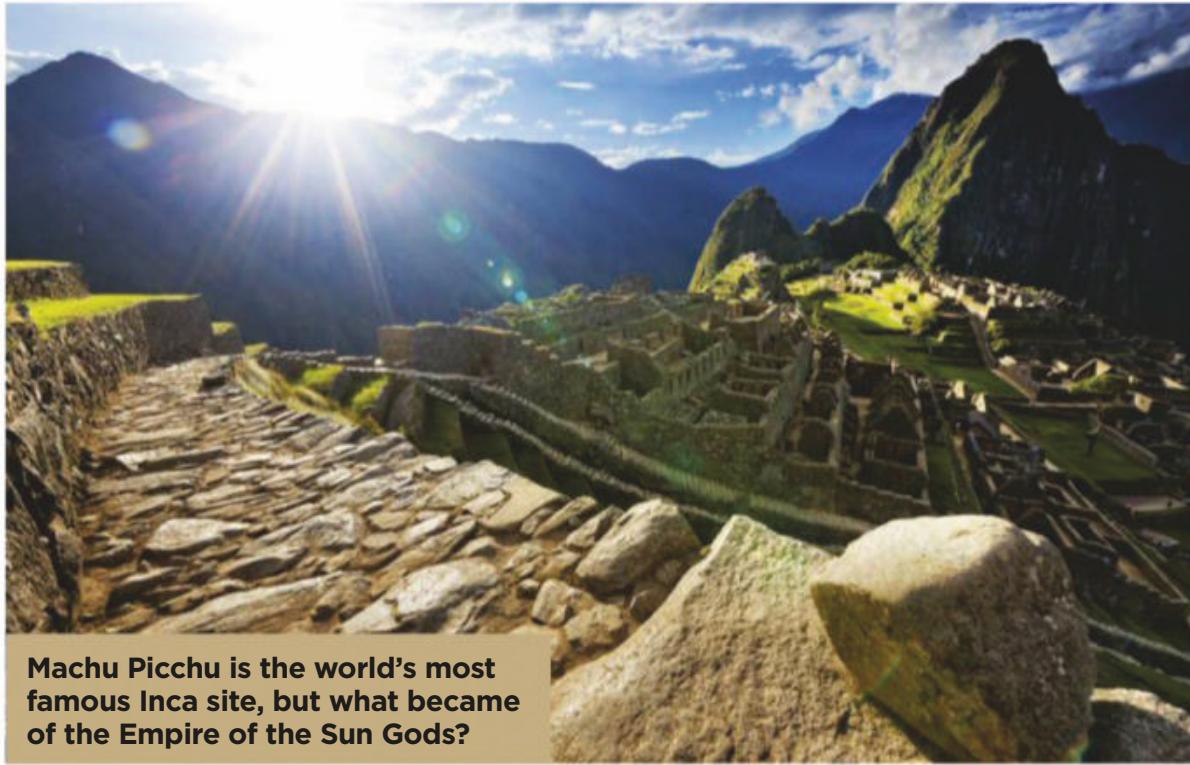


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Machu Picchu is the world's most famous Inca site, but what became of the Empire of the Sun Gods?

Are you sitting comfortably?



When we launched *History Revealed* back in early 2014, our mantra was that the magazine would be all about **telling amazing stories from the past**. And few stories can match that of the end of the Incas, when the **largest empire in the pre-Columbian Americas** was defeated thanks to deceit and double-crossing. The repercussions of those days have been far reaching, but just how did **thousands of experienced Inca warriors** fail to repel just **170 Spaniards**? The story unravels from page 56.

We have stories galore elsewhere – from the **CIA's mind-boggling experiments in PsyOps** (p47), to events **75 years ago** on the beaches of Normandy (p28). We even unpack the origins of 'the greatest story ever told', as we explore **the origins of the Bible** (p67). And if you want more, don't miss English Heritage's new storytelling events (details on page 81).

These will be the **last stories from me** as I'm handing over the reins of this fabulous magazine to a new editor from next month. I'm sure you'll **join me in welcoming her** to *History Revealed*, and enjoy many more years of great stories under her stewardship. But for now, **it's goodnight from me!**

Paul McGuinness
Editor

Don't miss our July issue, on sale 13 June

CONTRIBUTORS



Mary Hollingsworth

A specialist in medieval Italy, Mary gives us her verdict on whether Lucrezia Borgia was as bad as her reputation suggests. See page 39.



John Suchet

Classic FM host John explains how a statue of Beethoven left Europe's royals red-faced, and why he'd like to meet Napoleon. See page 17.



John Barton

Theological scholar John offers some insight into the reliability of the Old Testament, and whether its historical accuracy really matters. See page 67.

THIS MONTH WE'VE LEARNED...

240

Number of Roman denarii in a pound of silver – which formed the basis of Britain's confusing coinage (farthings, tanners and more) a millennium later. See page 18.

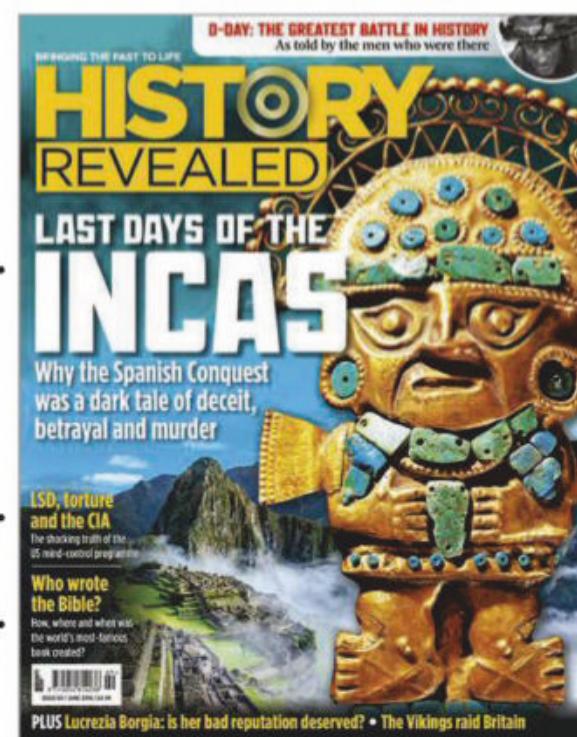
1977

Year of the last execution by guillotine in France. The machine is synonymous with the French Revolution and the Terror, but it isn't strictly a French invention. See page 75.

80

Institutions involved in the CIA's testing of psychoactive substances such as LSD in the 1950s. It was so secret that many of them were unaware that the CIA had any role at all. See page 47.

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► The Vikings set foot on English soil for the first time

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Lucrezia Borgia

Was the only recognised daughter of Pope Alexander VI a villainous poisoner, or is she a victim of revisionism? p39

The Secrets of the CIA's Mind-Control Programme

How one man's death laid bare the CIA's clandestine research into LSD, PsyOps and brainwashing p47

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Running naked was the norm back in Ancient Greece - except during one particular race p54

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The astounding story of how the Spanish dismantled the Inca Empire with deception and deceit p56

A History of the Bible

Where was it written? Who wrote it? And is it historically accurate? p67

56 LAST DAYS OF THE INCAS

How thousands of hardy Inca warriors were bested by 170 conquistadors

ALAMY X4, GETTY IMAGES X3, AKG IMAGES X1



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► Lucrezia Borgia: femme fatale, or unwilling pawn?

JUNE 2019

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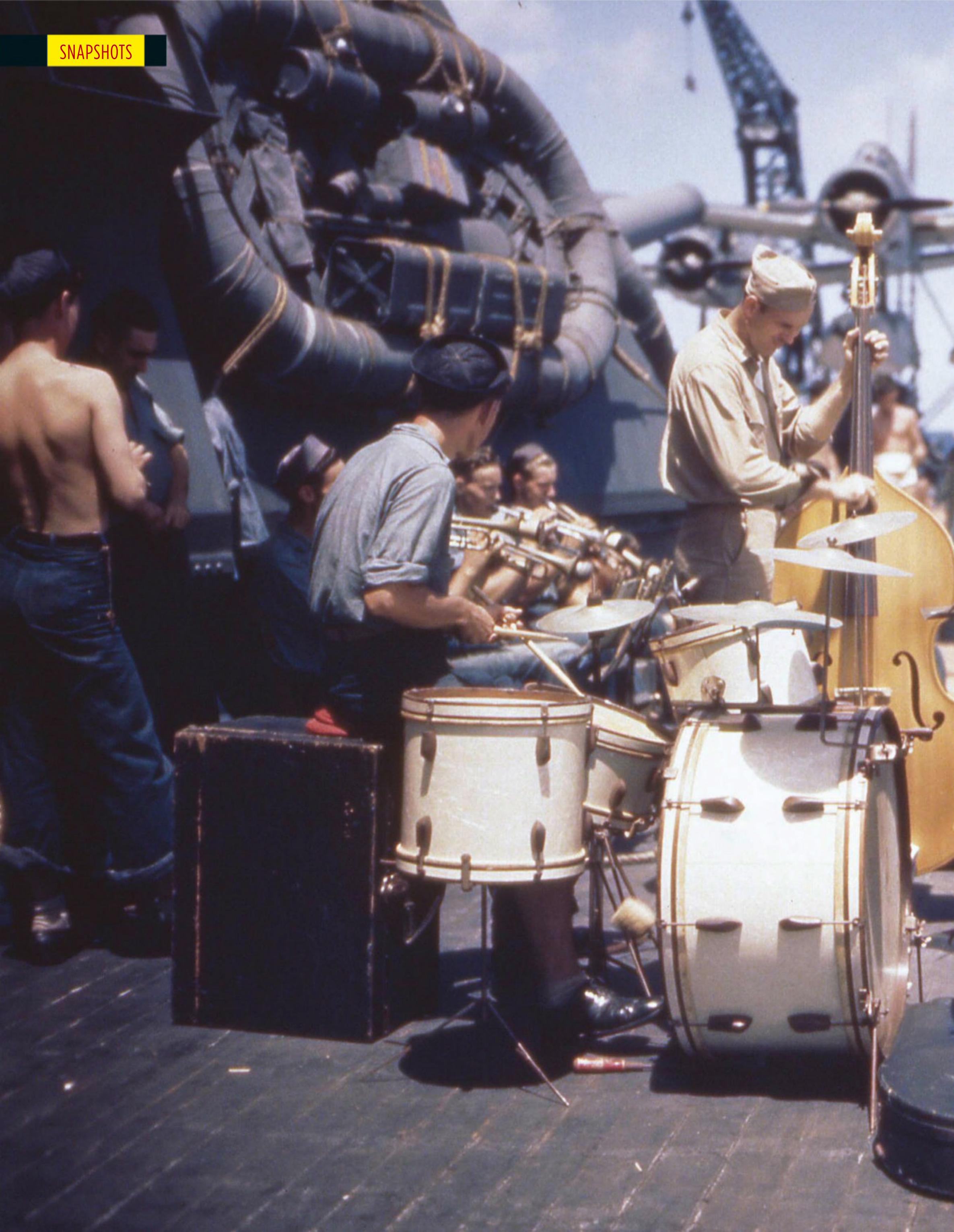
67 ▲ The evolution of the most influential book of all time

LIKE IT? SUBSCRIBE!

More details on our special offer on p26



SNAPSHOTS



1944 BEAT TO QUARTERS

A jive band in full swing wasn't a common sight for the deck of a battleship deployed in World War II, but voyages to the Pacific theatre were lengthy so the crew of the *USS New Mexico* were able to enjoy a moment of entertainment and sunbathing before battle commenced.

This US Navy flagship, dubbed 'The Queen', was heavily involved in shelling Japanese-held islands, during which she survived two direct hits by kamikaze aircraft.





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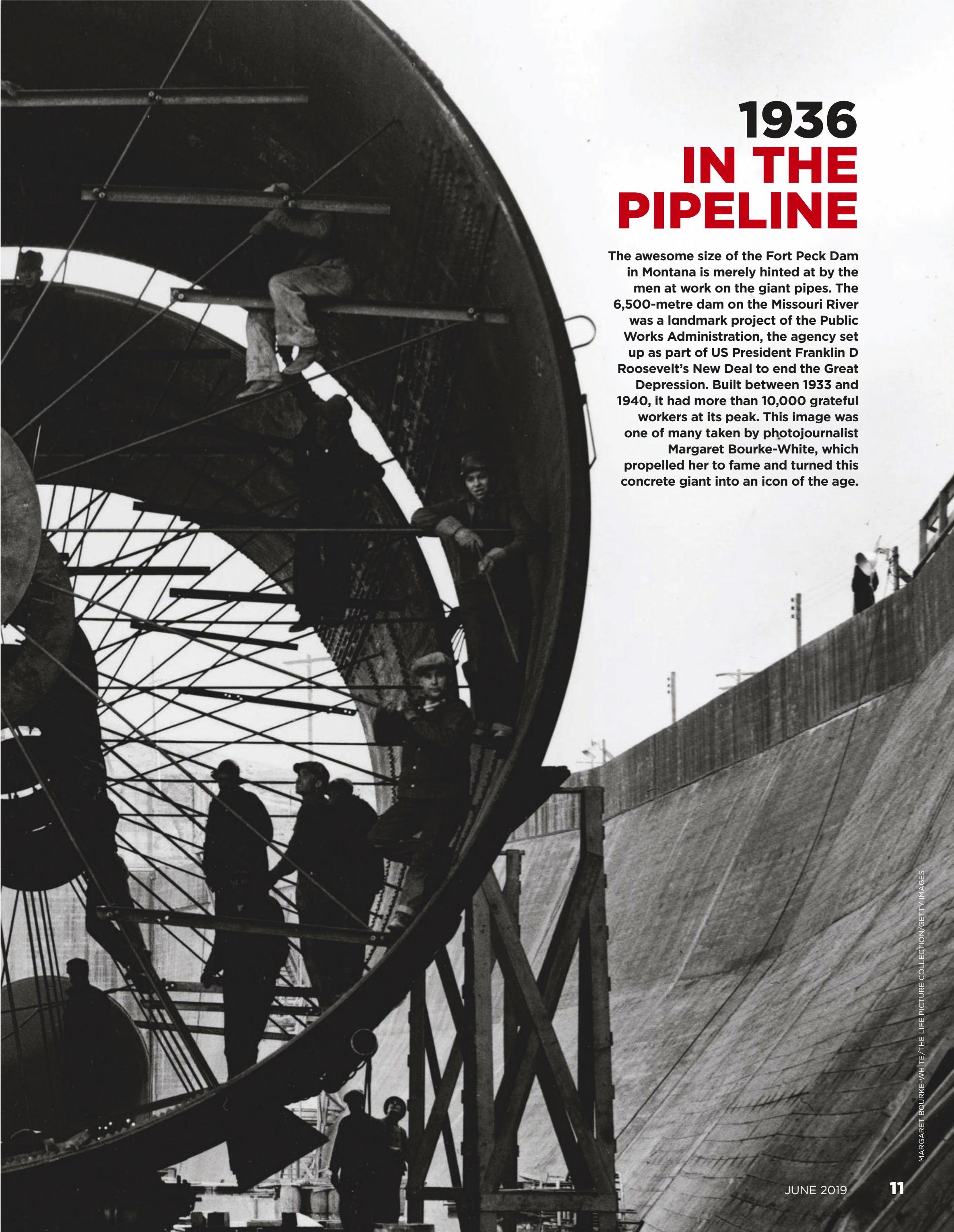


1948 MOVIE VILLAIN

What a rogues gallery of outlaws we have here. These London boys have gone to their local cinema to catch a Saturday morning flick and – as there was no shortage of Westerns and war movies during the 1940s – they've brought their toy guns to shoot along with the action on screen. The manager has other ideas, however, as he calls on the boys to 'park their guns' and other plastic weapons. The boy in front really doesn't seem happy about going into the cinema unarmed.

SNAPSHOTS



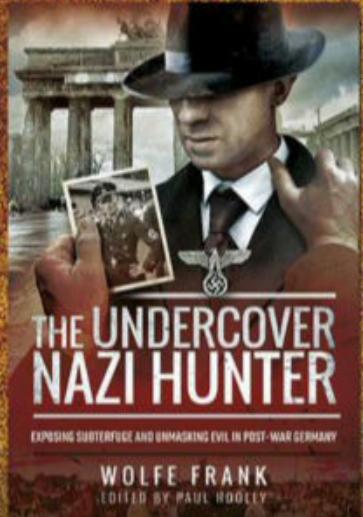


1936 IN THE PIPELINE

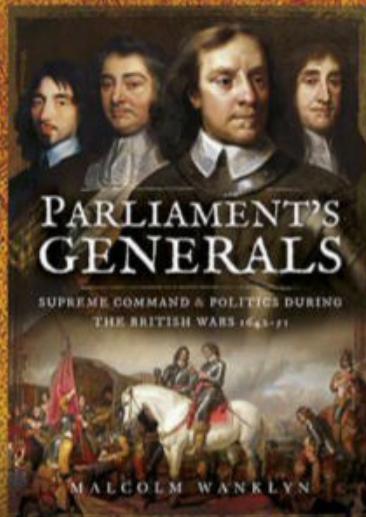
The awesome size of the Fort Peck Dam in Montana is merely hinted at by the men at work on the giant pipes. The 6,500-metre dam on the Missouri River was a landmark project of the Public Works Administration, the agency set up as part of US President Franklin D Roosevelt's New Deal to end the Great Depression. Built between 1933 and 1940, it had more than 10,000 grateful workers at its peak. This image was one of many taken by photojournalist Margaret Bourke-White, which propelled her to fame and turned this concrete giant into an icon of the age.

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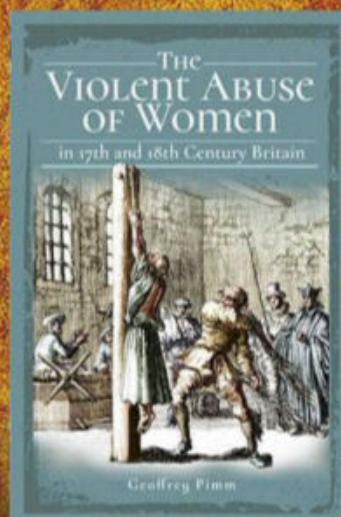
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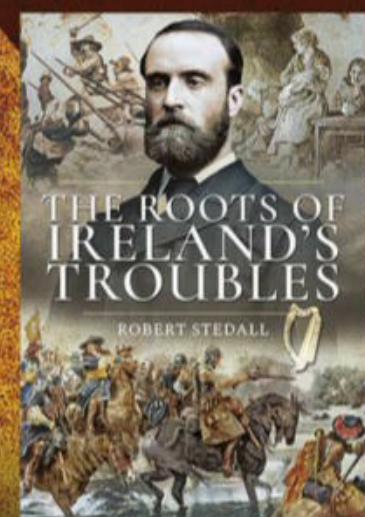
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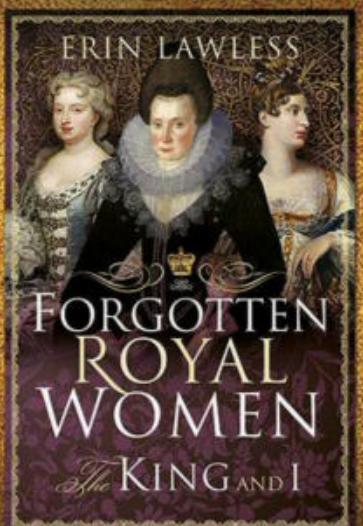
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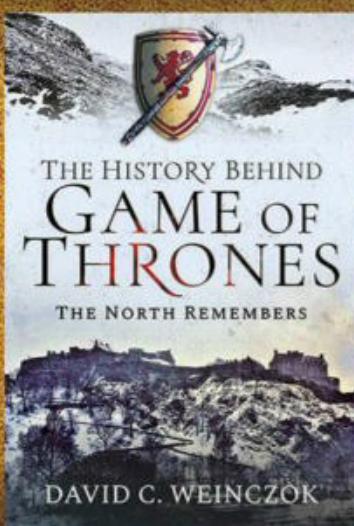
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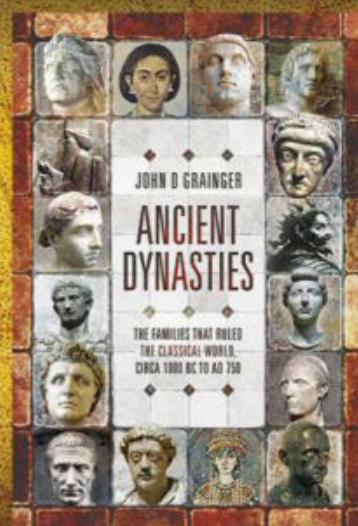
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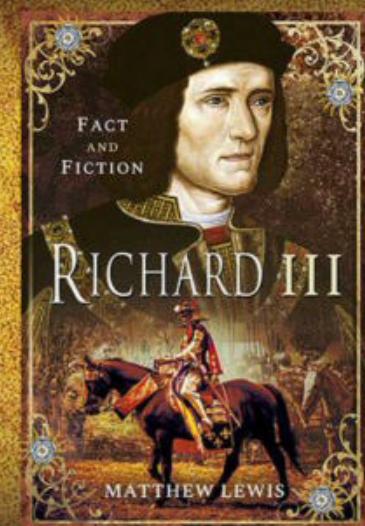
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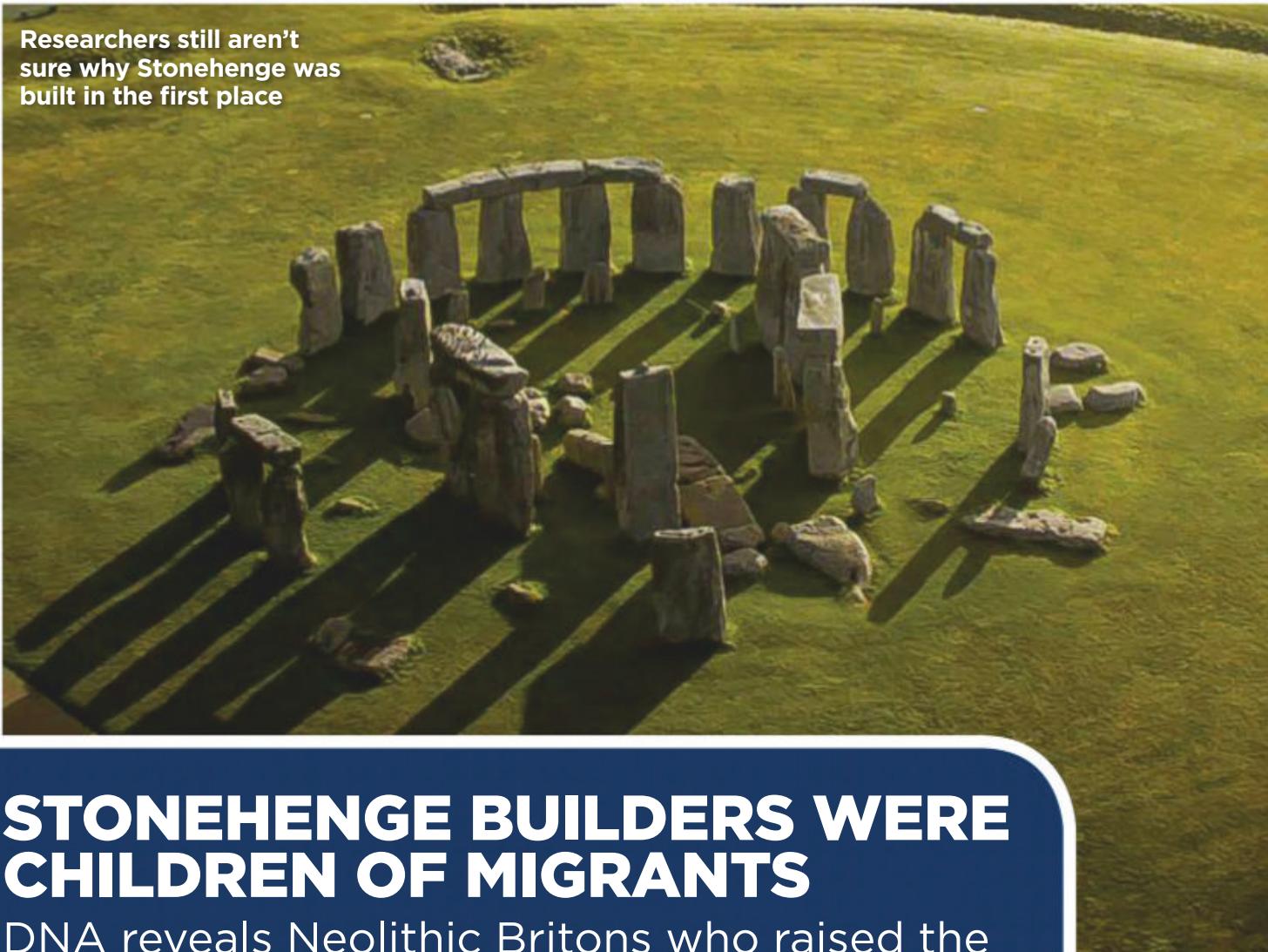
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REWIND

Giving you a fresh perspective on the events and findings from history

HISTORY IN THE NEWS



STONEHENGE BUILDERS WERE CHILDREN OF MIGRANTS

DNA reveals Neolithic Britons who raised the Salisbury Plain circle had Turkish ancestry

The mysterious stones at Stonehenge in Wiltshire have left visitors in awe – and confusion – for centuries, regularly topping polls for the most-visited attraction in Britain.

Now, DNA tests have revealed the ancestry of the builders of this prehistoric monument, and they were more European than we might think.

British and American scientists have discovered that the ancestors of those living in Britain at the time of Stonehenge's construction originally came from what is now Turkey. These people, who arrived in Britain 6,000 years ago, mostly replaced the

established hunter-gatherer population. It's believed this was part of a wider migration of people out of Anatolia and into Europe – bringing the practice of farming with them.

British Neolithic human remains were compared with those from across Europe, which revealed that Neolithic Britons were descended from travelling groups who travelled west across the Mediterranean.

The study's co-author, Dr Tom Booth from the Natural History Museum, says, "We don't find any detectable evidence at all for the local British western hunter-gatherer ancestry in the Neolithic farmers after they arrive. That doesn't

mean they don't mix at all, it just means that maybe their population sizes were too small to have left any kind of genetic legacy."

It's believed that these Neolithic people would have had medium-to-dark skin and brown eyes. The oldest known Briton – Cheddar Man – recently underwent a reconstruction that suggested he had blue or green eyes and dark skin.

Archaeologists already believe that the bluestones used in the famous stone circle come from the Preseli Hills in Wales, 250 kilometres away, and this new evidence suggests that the ancestors of those who built it were well-travelled as well.

SIX OF THE BEST...

Stepping stones in the story of human evolution....p14



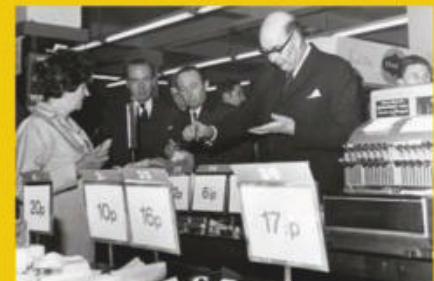
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Classic FM host and author John Suchet....p17



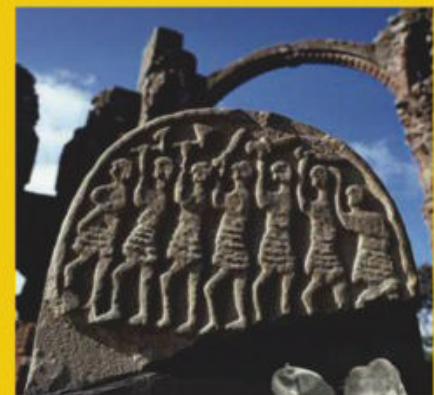
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The Vikings arrive in Englandp20



TIME CAPSULE: 1890

Nellie Bly breaks a record set by a fictional adventurerp22



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IN THE NEWS

NEW SPECIES OF ANCIENT HUMAN DISCOVERED

These 'hobbit'-sized species were believed to be under four foot tall

A previously unknown species of ancient human has been discovered in the Philippines, adding an extra note to the story of human evolution.

Named *Homo luzonensis*, the fossils of at least two adults and a juvenile were found in archeological deposits in a cave on Luzon Island and have been dated to between 50,000 and 67,000 years old.

The species appears to be adapted to climb trees and is under four feet tall – perhaps shorter than another ancient species, *Homo floresiensis*, nicknamed the 'hobbit'.

Professor Philip Piper of the Australian National University, co-author of the study, said: "The fossil remains included adult finger and toe bones, as well as teeth. We also recovered a child's femur. There are some really interesting features – for example, the teeth are really small. The size of the teeth generally, though not always, reflects the overall body-size of a



The tiny humans were found in Callao Cave on Luzon Island

mammal, so we think *Homo luzonensis* was probably relatively small. Exactly how small we don't know yet."

This discovery throws further doubt on the idea that *Homo erectus* was the sole species of human who migrated from Africa in the first wave – with *Homo sapiens* following in the second. Florent Détroit, of the Natural History Museum in Paris and a researcher on the team, said: "We now know that it was a much more complex evolutionary history, with several

distinct species contemporaneous with *Homo sapiens*. *Homo sapiens* were definitely not alone on Earth."

Further research into this new species will hopefully unlock its secrets, including the mystery of why it died out.



SIX OF THE BEST... MISSING LINKS

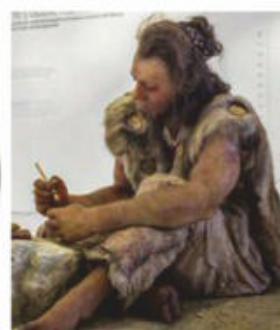
Our pick of the key discoveries in the story of human evolution



1 EL GRAECO
Found in Greece, this ape-like creature – *Graecopithecus freybergi* – had human-like teeth. This suggested that our ancestors were evolving 200,000 years earlier than previously thought.



2 NEANDERTHAL 1
Discovered in a German cave in 1856, this fossil was the first ever specimen to be recognised as an early human. The species was named *Homo neanderthalensis* after the valley it was found in.



3 CRO-MAGNON
In a cave at Cro-Magnon in France in 1868, multiple ancient skeletons were found. Dated to 28,000 years old, these early humans were found to be related to (but distinct from) Neanderthals.



4 CHEDDAR MAN
This skull belongs to the oldest complete skeleton of an ancient Briton. Unearthed in Cheddar Caves, he shares DNA with some modern-day residents of the Somerset village.



5 OLDUVAI GORGE
Tanzania is home to one of the most important sites in the human story. Olduvai is the source for the earliest evidence of human ancestors. One of the skulls found was more than 1.75 million years old.



6 LUCY
The discovery in Ethiopia of this 3.2 million-year-old ape-like skeleton proved that our ancient ancestors were walking much earlier than originally thought – changing evolution theory forever.

TIME PIECE

A look at everyday objects from the past

NO MORE BAD HAIR DAYS

Drying your hair could be a burning affair

Hanging around waiting for your hair to dry is a boring and damp experience, but thankfully we can now turn to electric blow dryers. Before they were invented, one of the alternatives was this strange contraption: the late 19th-century Thermicon. Similar to a hot water bottle, boiling water was poured into the stoneware paddles and used to brush the hair – it claimed to dry your hair within minutes. Luckily, by the 1920s, blow dryers with an electric heating element and fan came onto the market.



IN THE NEWS

EYEWITNESS ACCOUNT OF LIVINGSTONE'S DEATH PUBLISHED ONLINE

Handwritten diary reveals last moments of explorer

For the first time, a manuscript has been published featuring a handwritten account of the death of explorer David Livingstone.

The Scottish missionary became a national hero for his 19th-century African exploits, including, in 1855, becoming the first European to reach Victoria Falls on the Zambezi River – which he named for the Queen.

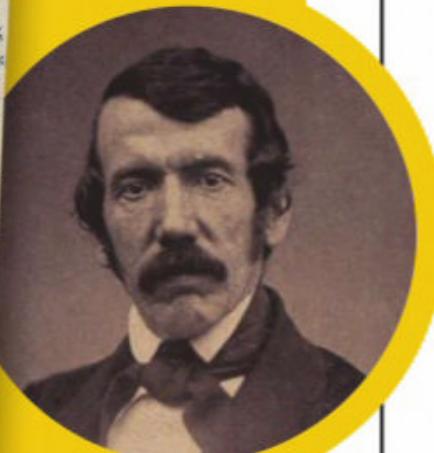
The account of his final days was written by Jacob Wainwright, an African

attendant. Although the diary was known about, the original was believed lost.

Livingstone died in Zambia in 1873, after a prolonged period of illness, and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Wainwright escorted his body all the way back to England, and acted as a pall bearer at his state funeral.

Read the diary at www.livingstoneonline.org

*The account of the country of Uragwany
The country of Uragwany is well cultivated, and the inhabitants are covered with peculiar trees (called Magoni); these trees are very useful to the inhabitants, it affords them not only timber for building houses, but the most durable bark which they strip from them are made into immense round baskets to receive corn which are woven in the place of barns. And again the inhabitants lie buried in small holes, being strong boxes prepared garment which the inhabitants wear, and may be also turned into many other things. Gibon, antelope, buffaloes, giraffes, &c. among other animals are found. The houses are low and flat-roofed, covered with mud. The streams and rivers in this country are but few, the language is difficult to understand. The account of Uragwany
The country of Uragwany is open, low, and extensive, and the people are bold and are provided with iron tools. They carry hand guns, muskets, &c. to another country, & then return to their own country. The inhabitants of the country of Uragwany are very fond of cattle, & some are found in India who call the cows 'the mother'. The soil is of reddish earth, and of course can be taken to the Indians. It will afford abundant produce. In every city belonging to different districts, a certain estimation, the stronger pay tribute or custom.*



Wainwright's notes on Livingstone's (inset) last days can be read online

HISTORY IN COLOUR

Colourised photographs that bring the past to life



ELLIS ISLAND, 1905

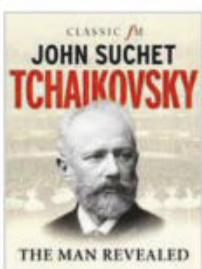
Men, women and children arrive at Ellis Island in Upper New York Bay, hoping to begin a new life in the US. The island was the primary immigration centre in the US, with some 12 million people passing through its great hall over six decades of operation. These new arrivals will have to be processed and undergo medical inspections before they are permitted entry; those who fail are detained.

See more colourised pictures by
Marina Amaral  @marinamaral2

YOUR HISTORY

John Suchet

The Classic FM host and author talks to us about his favourite composer, Beethoven, and wonders what the world would be like if Hitler had made it as an artist



Tchaikovsky: The Man Revealed – out now – is the latest in John Suchet's illuminating biography series exploring the lives of the musical masters.

The Beethoven statue was only completed thanks to the donation of composer Franz Liszt



Q If you could turn back the clock, which single event in history would you want to change?

I would ask the Academy of Fine Arts in Vienna to reverse its decision to reject an application from a certain Austrian teenager to be a student there. Young Adolf Hitler's sole ambition was to become a professional artist. So keen was he that he applied twice, in 1907 and 1908, but was rejected. What a different – and better – world we would live in if that teenager had become 'Adolf Hitler, artist', rather than a megalomaniac dictator.

Q If you could meet any figure from history, who would it be?

Napoleon Bonaparte. Hero or villain? A government minister once told me he classed Napoleon with Hitler, yet the French revere him and he is entombed in splendour at Les Invalides in Paris. Did he set out to conquer Europe or was he a patriot defending France?

So, transport me to St Helena please so I can interview him, though – if the self-serving memoirs he dictated there are anything to go by – I'll have one hell of a job sorting out fact from embellishment. But just to hear his answers would be gold dust.

Q If you could visit any historical landmark in the world tomorrow, where would you go?

The huge bronze statue of Beethoven in the Münsterplatz in Bonn, Germany. But I would have to go on 12 August 1845, when it was unveiled. Crowned heads of Europe, including Queen Victoria and Prince Albert, were there, as well as VIPs sitting on a balcony built onto the embassy residence at the top of the square. When the statue was unveiled, the bronze Beethoven was facing down the square with his back to royalty. The insult! Red faces all round. Beethoven, no respecter of rank, would have loved it.

Q Who is your unsung history hero?

Has to be another connection to Beethoven. The only useful thing his drunken father ever did was hire as his teacher, a young organist and composer named Christian Gottlob Neefe. He was an outsider, a Protestant in a Catholic town, and a member of the proscribed 'Illuminati', a gathering of intellectuals with radical ideals – anti-monarchy, anti-Church. He filled Beethoven with these ideas and encouraged his early attempts at composition. We all know where that led. A statue to Neefe, please, facing the right way.

"The bronze Beethoven had his back to royalty – the insult!"



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The new Queen's head. It will appear on all the new decimal coins.



The new Tenpence. It shows the lion passant, part of the crest of Britain and Northern Ireland.



The new Fivepence. It shows the badge of Scotland—a thistle royally crowned.



The new Two pence. It shows the badge of the Prince of Wales with the motto, *Ich Dien*.



The new one penny. It shows a portcullis with chains royally crowned—originally a badge of King Henry VII.



The new half-penny. It shows the Royal Crown.

THE DECIMAL REVOLUTION

First
= pictures

BRITAIN'S new decimal coins will carry designs showing part of the Royal crest of England, the badge of Scotland, and the emblem of the Prince of Wales.

But Britannia, who has appeared on British coins since the reign of Charles II, is missing.

Mr J. H. James, deputy Master of the Royal Mint, said at a Press conference in London this afternoon at which details of the new coins were announced: "We did rather regret we did not have Britannia, but apart from anything else the lady does not sit well on top of a large numeral. She looks jolly uncomfortable."

Close on 1000 different designs from 33 artists from all over the world took part in a public competition to decide the winning design for decimal coins which will be in total use in Britain from early 1971.

The Queen's portrait

A portrait of the Queen, approved by her in 1964, will appear on all the coins.

There are five coins in the new decimal set from a halfpenny to a tenpenny piece. The design descriptions are:

Halfpenny: the Royal Crown.

Penny: a portcullis in chains surmounted by a royal crown (reminiscent of the present threepenny piece in design).

Two pence: the badge of the Prince of Wales. Three ostrich feathers in a coronet, with the Prince's motto "Ich Dien."

Fivepence: a thistle surmounted by a Royal crown. The badge of Scotland.

Tenpence, part of the crest of England.

These are all the designs on the reverse side of the new coins.

The prize-winning designs were created by former wartime camouflage expert and present part-time teacher at the Maidstone College of Art, Mr. Christopher Ironside.

Some of the coins will be in circulation "fairly soon" said Mr. James. No definite date has so far been announced for the complete change-over. But Treasury officials were confidently, although privately, suggesting Monday, February 15, 1971.

The portrait of the Queen which will appear on the front of all the new coins is the work of Mr. Arnold Machin, the present Master of Sculpture at the Royal Academy Schools. His design is already in use on the coins of a number of Commonwealth countries, including Canada, Australia, and New Zealand.

The new Ironside designs were selected by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee, which includes leading artists, coin experts, heraldic experts, and is headed by Prince Philip. Among the members of the committee, which contains no women, is Mr. John Betjeman, the poet.

Each of the new coins announced today carries the

Contd. Back Page, Col. 6

DIPLOMAT'S MISSING DAUGHTER RIDDLE

John Ponder

Police said this afternoon they were concerned for the safety of the 13-year-old daughter of a Foreign Office diplomat missing since about 5 p.m. yesterday.

The girl is Sarah York Unwin Biggin, of The Spinney, Bedford Hill, Streatham, who vanished after saying she was going shopping in Streatham.

Her father is Mr. Dennis Biggin, a first secretary at the Foreign Office. He and his wife have another daughter aged 16.

Sarah wears her long, brown hair in a distinctive style, hanging in one plait over her left shoulder.

"She could be in moral danger," said a police spokesman today.

Doctor visit

Earlier Det. - Chief Insp. Reginald Davis organised a search of Tooting Bec Common, near her home.

She was picked up yesterday by her mother from her convent school, La Religieuse School, Balham, and taken to visit a doctor in Beckmead Avenue, off Streatham High Road.

Later she said she was going shopping and would return home by six.

Sarah was wearing a black cape over a bright pink jumper, black trousers and black shoes.

She is 5ft. 2in. of medium build, with fair complexion and wears a gold ring on her left forefinger.

She has relatives in Dover, but they have not seen her.

'No idea'

Mr. Biggin, who is 46, said today at the family's detached home overlooking Streatham Common: "We called the police when Sarah didn't get home by 7.30. They searched the common and five roads nearby with tracker dogs.

"I have no idea why Sarah might have gone missing. Her mid-term exams started today, but I have spoken to her teachers and they say she was quite confident about them.



SARAH BIGGIN

U.S. jets hit Hanoi

American jets bombed targets on the outskirts of Hanoi yesterday with the heaviest strikes in six weeks. Two airfields and the Canal des Rapides bridge just outside Hanoi were hit. Four missile sites in the protective ring around Hanoi were also knocked out.

Fuller story—Page 18.

In your 36-page Standard

HOME

Teenage drugs report Page 11
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AB Pictures-Mecca Link? Page 2

BEECHING RESIGNS FROM ICI

JACK PROSSER

Lord Beeching, former head of British Railways, is quitting his £40,000 a year job as a managing director of Imperial Chemical Industries so that he can have time to "re-think my whole professional future."

In an official statement from the company today, it was stated that his resignation had been accepted "with great regret."

The company hopes that at a later stage the nature of his duties will allow him to rejoin the board as a non-executive director.

Lord Beeching told me today that he had "no immediate new appointment in mind." But he expects that he will "be considering other possibilities in due course."

ICI profit up to £101m.—
PAGE TWO.

New curb on illegal migrants

Evening Standard
Parliamentary Reporter

There is a case for amendment of the law to deal with clandestine immigration, Home Secretary James Callaghan told the Commons this afternoon.

And when pressed to include deportation for any person who clandestinely entered the United Kingdom after 24 hours here, the Home Secretary replied: "Yes."

Contd. Back Page, Col. 5

DUE TO THE ENORMOUS DEMAND FOR SEATS

THERE WILL BE

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MONDAYS & TUESDAYS

FEB. 19-20-26-27

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SEASON MUST END
MARCH 2

YESTERDAY'S PAPERS

Another timeless front page from the archives

BRITAIN GETS READY FOR DECIMAL DAY

The pounds, shillings and pence used for centuries were to be replaced by a new currency

For those who have only known British money after the overhaul of decimalisation in 1971, the old currency seems a confusing array of arithmetic and colourfully named coins.

There were 12 pennies in a shilling and 20 shillings to the pound, but within that were farthings, halfpennies, thrupenny bits, tanners, half-crowns, crowns and florins. This system was in use for over a millennium and had its origins in Roman times, when a pound of silver would be divided into 240 denarii.

The idea of a decimal currency, based on units of 10 and 100, had been mooted long before Britain made the switch. Other nations did so much earlier: Russia made the transition in 1704, then France and the US in the 1790s. Yet it would not be until a number of Commonwealth nations made the change in the 1960s that momentum led Britain to join what the *Evening Standard* called "The Decimal Revolution".

Chancellor of the Exchequer James Callaghan announced the decision on 1 March 1966 and the Decimal Currency Board (DCB) was created to make the transition, which would not take full effect for five years, as smooth as possible. Central to the campaign was a public information drive of posters, leaflets, BBC broadcasts, an instructional song by Max Bygraves and a 26-minute sitcom-style film for ITV called *Granny Gets the Point*.

To ease the change further, the new 5p and 10p coins were introduced in

April 1968, then the 50p the following year. All coins had a portrait of the Queen on one side, while the reverse boasted the work of esteemed sculptor Christopher Ironside. He had started in 1962 on the instructions of a pre-empting Royal Mint, only for Callaghan to launch a public competition for the coin designs, causing Ironside to start again and work tirelessly in order to win the right to "get the tails", as he put it.

Finally, the 1p, 2p and halfpenny went into circulation on Monday 15 February 1971 – Decimal Day, also referred to as D-Day.

The banks had closed for four days in preparation and shops had currency converters to display prices in both old and new money, but the DCB had done its job. Apart from some lamenting the loss of pounds, shillings and pence, everything went smoothly as two billion new coins filled the nation's purses. ◎

A shopper receives help with the new currency; some stores still accepted the old coins after 'D-Day', but always gave the new ones as change, helping banks remove them from circulation

DCB chairman Lord Fiske launched a raft of PR campaigns to get Britons ready for the switch



THIS MONTH IN... AD 793

Anniversaries that have made history

This carved stone depicts the day in June AD 793 when murderous Vikings landed on Lindisfarne

VIKINGS RAID LINDISFARNE

An attack on a small religious community in Northumbria heralds the start of the Viking Age

On 8 June AD 793, the peaceful and remote monastic community of Lindisfarne Priory suffered a surprise Viking raid. It wasn't to be a one-off, but proved just the beginning of a period of conquest and expansion by the Scandinavian warriors.

Known as Holy Island, Lindisfarne is a tidal island off the coast of Northumberland. A monastery was founded here in AD 634 by Saint Aidan at the request of King Oswald of Northumbria. It became a renowned base for Christianity in the north of England and attracted monks from communities such as Iona. The beautiful illuminated manuscripts known as *The Lindisfarne Gospels* were created here, and the remains of St Cuthbert were buried within.

Monasteries were often established on islands to keep them away from the political interference of the mainland and give the community a sense of isolation. This, though, made them incredibly vulnerable. As well as being undefended, the priory at Lindisfarne was full of valuable treasures used in religious ceremonies and so proved to be a fortunate choice for the raiders, showing them what wealth could be found across the sea.

The Vikings - who until now had not ventured far beyond their homes in Scandinavia - looted all the relics they could find and brutally murdered monks living on the island. It was such an unexpected attack that the inhabitants had no time to prepare a defence or call for aid from the mainland.

The assault sent shock waves across the Christian world. Lindisfarne was described by Alcuin of York, a scholar at the court of Charlemagne, as the most 'venerable' site in all of Britain. *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle* recorded: "Heathen men made lamentable

havoc in the church of God in Holy-island, by rapine and slaughter."

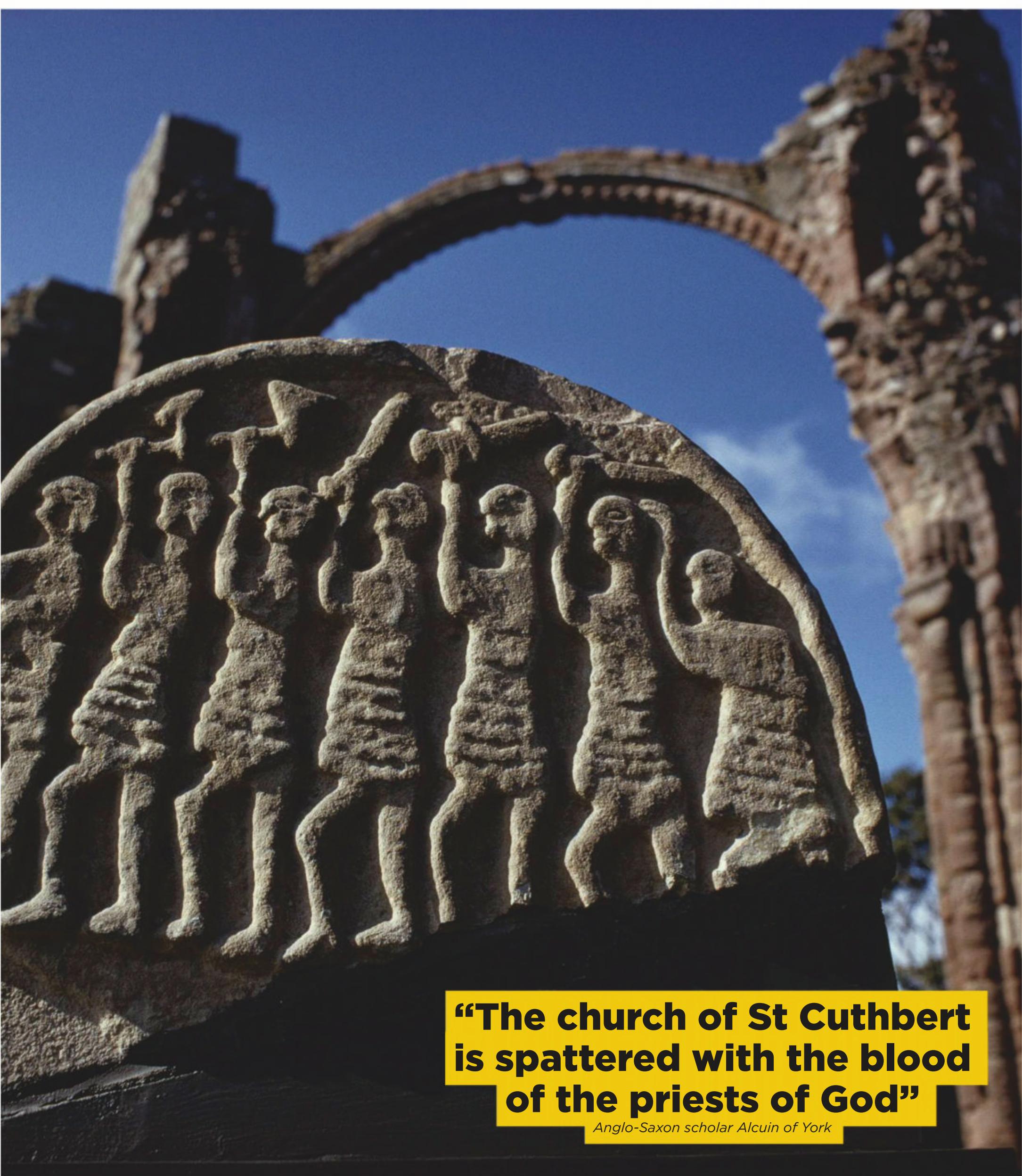
Alcuin wrote an account of the attack: "Never before has such terror appeared in Britain as we have now suffered from a pagan race ... The heathens poured out the blood of saints around the altar, and trampled on the bodies of saints in the temple of God, like dung in the streets."

Though this wasn't the first Viking raid on Britain - one of the king's officials had been killed by marauding Vikings in Wessex a few years previously - it was the first one to make such an impact across Europe, showing that these pagan warriors were a dangerous threat.

Lindisfarne was eventually abandoned, until the late 11th century when a Norman priory was built. Following their invasion of the island, the Vikings conquered much of the north of England and incorporated it into the Danelaw - the name given to the Viking-conquered regions of Anglo-Saxon England. ◎



St Cuthbert, the former bishop of Lindisfarne, is remembered by this bronze sculpture



**“The church of St Cuthbert
is spattered with the blood
of the priests of God”**

Anglo-Saxon scholar Alcuin of York

TIME CAPSULE 1890

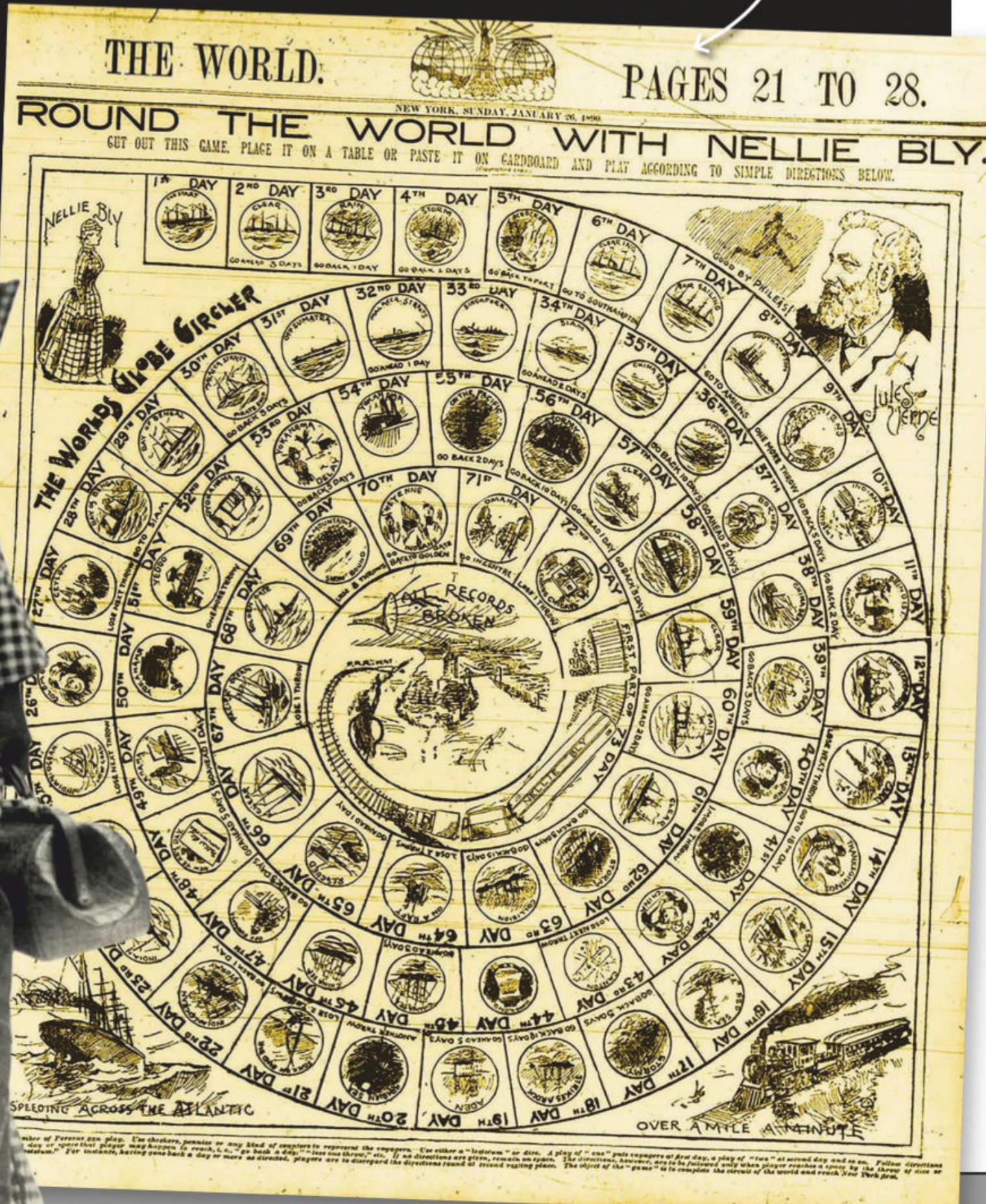
Snapshots of the world from one year in the past

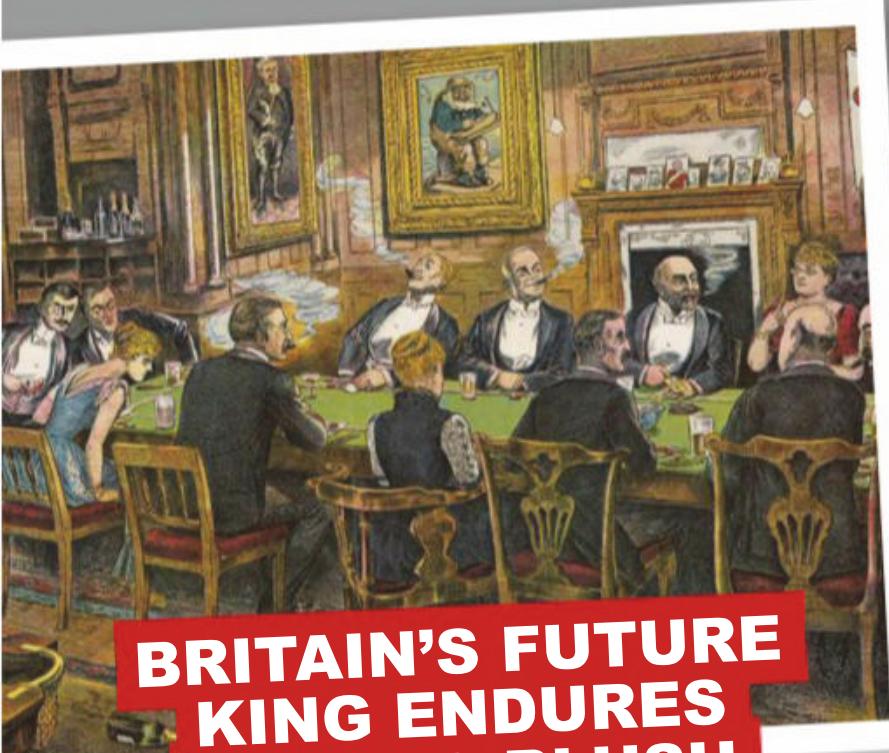
NELLIE BLY COMPLETES HER JOURNEY AROUND THE WORLD

Inspired by the Jules Verne novel *Around the World in 80 Days*, investigative journalist Nellie Bly decided to try to beat the impressive feat set by its protagonist. Boarding a steamship in New Jersey in November 1889, Bly – real name Elizabeth Jane Cochran – managed to circumnavigate the globe in just 72 days and even met Verne in France

along the way. Her employer, *The New York World* newspaper, chronicled her journey and held a competition to guess her how long she would take. Bly's triumphant return on 25 January 1890 saw her greeted with fireworks and a host of fans. Though her record was beaten a few months later, the book she wrote about her journey made her a star.

When Bly pitched the trip to *The World*, she was told only a man could do it. "Very well," she said, "start the man, and I'll start the same day for some other newspaper and beat him."





BRITAIN'S FUTURE KING ENDURES A ROYAL BLUSH

As Prince of Wales, the future Edward VII was renowned for living a wild life. Something of a playboy, he was also a fan of the card game baccarat. During a stay at Tranby Croft in Yorkshire in September, one of Edward's party, Sir William Gordon-Cumming, a lieutenant-colonel in the Scots Guards, was accused of cheating. With the agreement of the Prince, Gordon-Cumming was confronted and made to agree that he would never play again, in exchange for the guests' silence. The next year, someone talked. Gordon-Cumming sued the hosts for slander, and the Prince was required to testify – revealing his participation in illegal gambling. The lieutenant was found guilty and dismissed from the army.

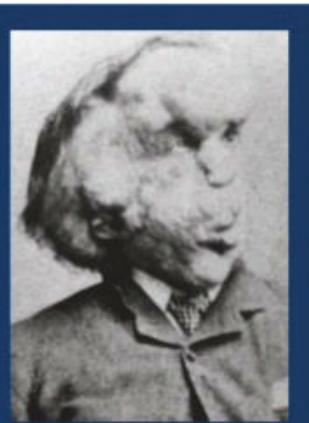


GEORGE DIXON BECOMES THE FIRST BLACK BOXING CHAMP

After beating Nunc Wallace in the 18th round, Canadian boxer George 'Little Chocolate' Dixon won the World Bantamweight Championship – becoming the first black man to do so – and followed it up by claiming the featherweight title in 1891. He became wealthy, but was unable to hold onto his money and died virtually penniless in 1908. Dixon is still considered by many to be one of the best in the bantamweight and featherweight divisions and is credited with inventing shadowboxing – the act of sparring alone to train the muscles.

DIED: 11 APRIL JOSEPH MERRICK

Known as the Elephant Man, Merrick's physical deformities began to present in his childhood. He joined a 'freak show' as a young man and was later encountered by a physician, who admitted him to the London Hospital for examination – where he became famous. He died at the age of 27 of accidental suffocation.



THE SIOUX SUFFER AT WOUNDED KNEE

On 29 December, a misunderstanding between US soldiers and the Native Americans left more than 150 men, women and children of the Lakota Sioux dead at Wounded Knee. Starving and still reeling from the death of Chief Sitting Bull some weeks earlier, the Lakota Sioux sought refuge at a reservation in South Dakota. The US forces believed an uprising was imminent due to the Ghost Dance religious movement spreading across the people. A scuffle broke out that turned into a massacre, now marked by a mass grave (below).



ALSO IN 1890...

15 JANUARY

Tchaikovsky's ballet *The Sleeping Beauty* premieres in St Petersburg. It is still held as one of the most important works in the classic ballet repertoire.

4 MARCH

The Forth Bridge, over the Firth of Forth in Scotland, is opened. With a span of 521 metres, it is the second-longest single cantilever bridge span in the world.

12 MAY

The first official cricket County Championship match takes place in Bristol between Gloucestershire and Yorkshire.

JULY

Oscar Wilde's only novel, *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, is published in *Lippincott's Monthly Magazine*. The story was censored due to homosexual content and was used against Wilde in his 1895 trial for gross indecency.

6 AUGUST

In Buffalo, New York, William Kemmler becomes the first person to be legally executed by electric chair – believed at the time to be more humane than hanging.

BORN: 15 SEPTEMBER AGATHA CHRISTIE

The Queen of Crime, Christie is still the best-selling novelist of all time – out-published only by the Bible and Shakespeare. Christie was also involved in a mystery of her own when she went missing for several days in 1926, triggering a huge manhunt. She offered no explanation when she was found.

GRAPHIC HISTORY

MEDIEVAL JOUSTS

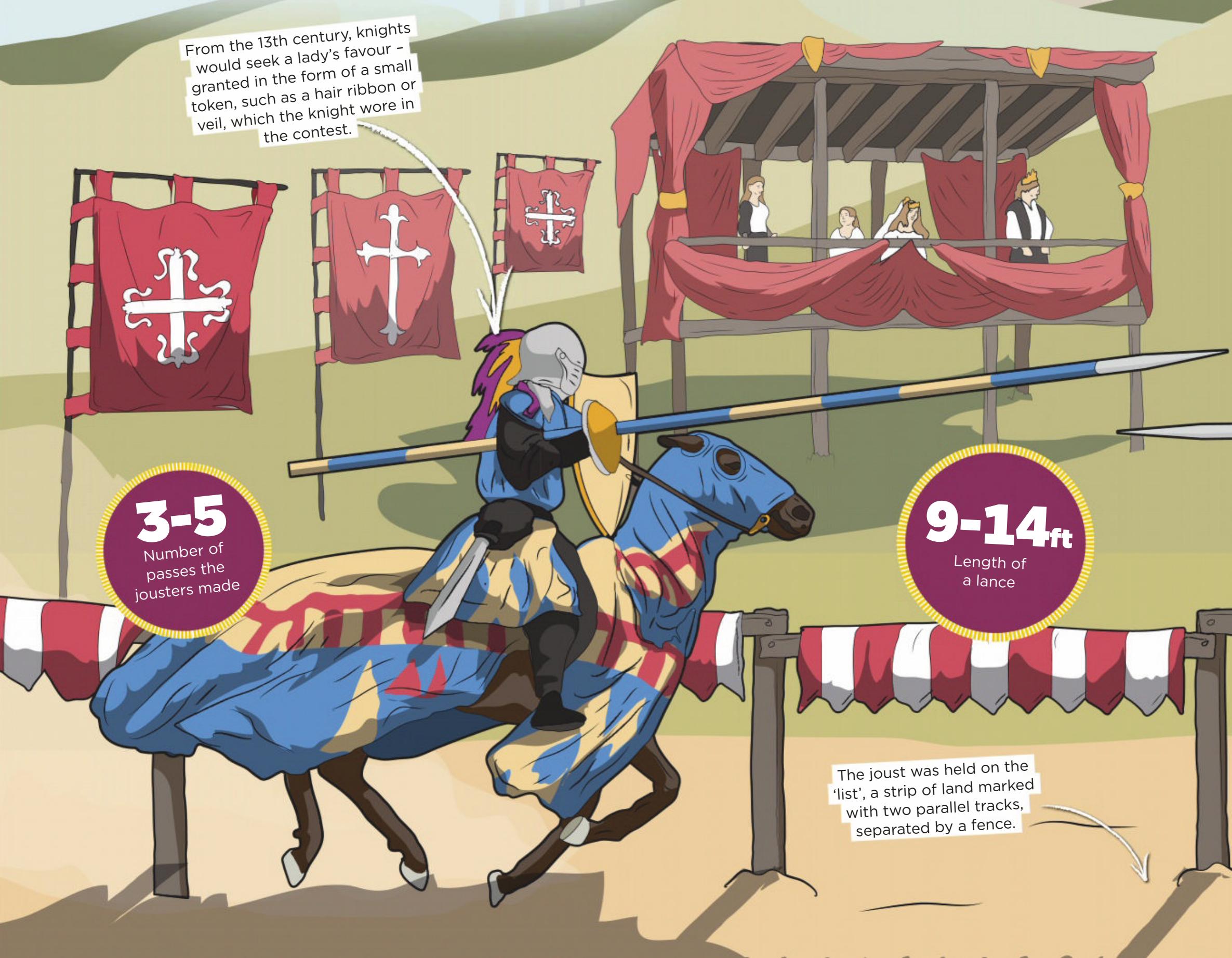
When not at war, knights of the realm turned to the joust to find fame and fortune

The joust was the quintessential medieval sporting contest, beloved by nobles and the peasantry alike. Two warriors astride horses charging towards each other, armed with lances, each aiming to 'break a spear' – and ideally send their opponent tumbling to the dirt in the process. It was where

knights showed off their chivalry and martial prowess, wooed the ladies of the realm and – if they were skilful enough – made a name for themselves. A knight who performed well in front of the lords of the land could hope for patronage, position and a much-fattened coin purse – if he didn't end up maimed.

1066

Year of the first recorded jousting tournament, organised by Frenchman Godfrey de Preuilly



FAMOUS INJURIES

GEOFFREY II, DUKE OF BRITTANY (1186)

Trampled to death by his horse after being knocked from the saddle.

HENRY VIII OF ENGLAND (1536)

Suffered a serious head injury after being unhorsed, and a leg injury that turned into an ulcer.

HENRY II OF FRANCE (1559)

Died after a splinter of his opponent's lance lodged in his eye.

Knights entering the lists would pay to have their shield fixed to a tree; challengers were able to choose their opponent by rapping on their shield. The fee, paid to the tournament herald, was known as the 'nail money'

SCORING

Points were awarded depending on how well you struck your opponent

+1

A hit that doesn't break the lance

+2

A hit that snaps off the tip of the lance

+3

A hit that breaks the lance

BORN OF BATTLE

Jousting evolved from the melee, the most exciting, brutal and dangerous element of the medieval tourney. Ostensibly a mock combat, there was little fake about it.

Two teams of mounted knights faced off over a large, ill-defined battleground. They would charge each other in formation, after which the contest devolved into open warfare – those who were unseated were forced to fight on foot – the idea being to capture opposing knights so they could be ransomed.

Surrounding the lists would be a sea of brightly adorned cloth pavilions in which participants would rest and eat between bouts. More than likely there would be several surgeons on hand as well, in case of accidents.

The wooden lances were tipped with metal, but from 1292 they were blunted so they wouldn't cause fatal injuries

Defeated combatants suffered more than a loss of prestige. Often they would be required to give up their horse, weapons or armour, and could only regain them by paying a ransom.

 Pope Innocent II banned tournaments (including jousting) at the 1130 Council of Clermont – and anyone mortally wounded in such a contest was to be refused a Christian burial. The ruling remained in force until 1316, meaning every tournament held throughout Christendom in this period was against the will of the Church.

30 mph
Speed of a jousting

HISTORY

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D-Day
75th anniversary

BLOOD ON THE BEACHES

Allied troops on the landing crafts did not know if they would survive D-Day, but they knew the beaches had to be taken



The fate of World War II turned on 6 June 1944, the day of the Normandy landings. **Giles Milton** recounts key moments of an outlandishly ambitious offensive through the words of those – Allied and German – who lived them



It was shortly after midnight on Tuesday, 6 June 1944, when a young German officer named Helmut Liebeskind slipped on his jacket and stepped outside into the damp night air. He was disturbed by the noise of Allied bombers flying overhead and wanted to see if anything untoward was taking place.

As he looked up at the sky, he got the shock of his life. Through a break in the cloud he could see "the shadowy forms of multi-engine bombers with freighter gliders attached". This was not one of the routine bombing raids that happened most nights – the gliders were designed to land enemy troops.

Liebeskind was quite possibly the first German soldier to witness the opening action of D-Day: a mass glider drop into Normandy, as part of a number of airborne operations. He rushed back into his headquarters and snatched at the staff telephone. "Major," he shouted down the line. "Gliders are landing in our section. I'm trying to make contact with No II Battalion."

A few miles away, in an underground command bunker in the Normandy town of Caen, a German wireless operator named Eva Eifler had just started her night shift. She was looking forward to a quiet few hours, for it was tipping down with rain and the wind was blowing a gale. It was not the sort of night on which the enemy would launch their much-anticipated invasion.



ABOVE: A US paratrooper clammers aboard with his full pack, which weighed around 30kg

RIGHT: Two of the Horsa gliders that landed at Pegasus Bridge (bottom left) can be seen in this aerial shot

But at the same time that Liebeskind spotted the gliders, Eifler began receiving coded messages from German field posts across Normandy. Something was not quite right. Reports were flashing in from all along the coast – reports that suggested an airborne landing was already underway.

CAPTURE THE BRIDGES

This was indeed correct. During the night, no fewer than 13,000 US and 8,500 British soldiers were dropped into Normandy. Among the latter was Wally Parr, who had boarded his glider at around 10pm. His task, and



that of the 180 comrades from the 6th Airborne Division, was to capture two strategically vital bridges – one at Bénouville (better known as Pegasus Bridge) and its neighbour at Ranville. It was a mission of vital importance for everything that was to follow. If the bridges were not captured, German Panzer tanks would be able to sweep



ABOVE: General Eisenhower speaks to men of the 101st Airborne before they set off

RIGHT: James Stagg gave the crucial forecast



WAITING ON THE WEATHERMEN

Operation Overlord depended on a full Moon, a flooding dawn tide and a spell of fine weather. Supreme Allied Commander, General Eisenhower, had a chief weatherman named James Stagg, plus three teams of meteorologists, but they rarely agreed with each other. The American forecasters thought their British counterparts too cautious, the British thought the Americans too confident, while the naval forecasters disagreed with everyone.

The problem was compounded by atrocious spring weather – it rained interminably and the wind was blowing a gale. Eisenhower's plans to launch the invasion on 5 June were scuppered by forecasts of storms. There was also the time needed to cross the Channel to take into account. It took at least 12 hours for ships to reach the coast of Normandy, so

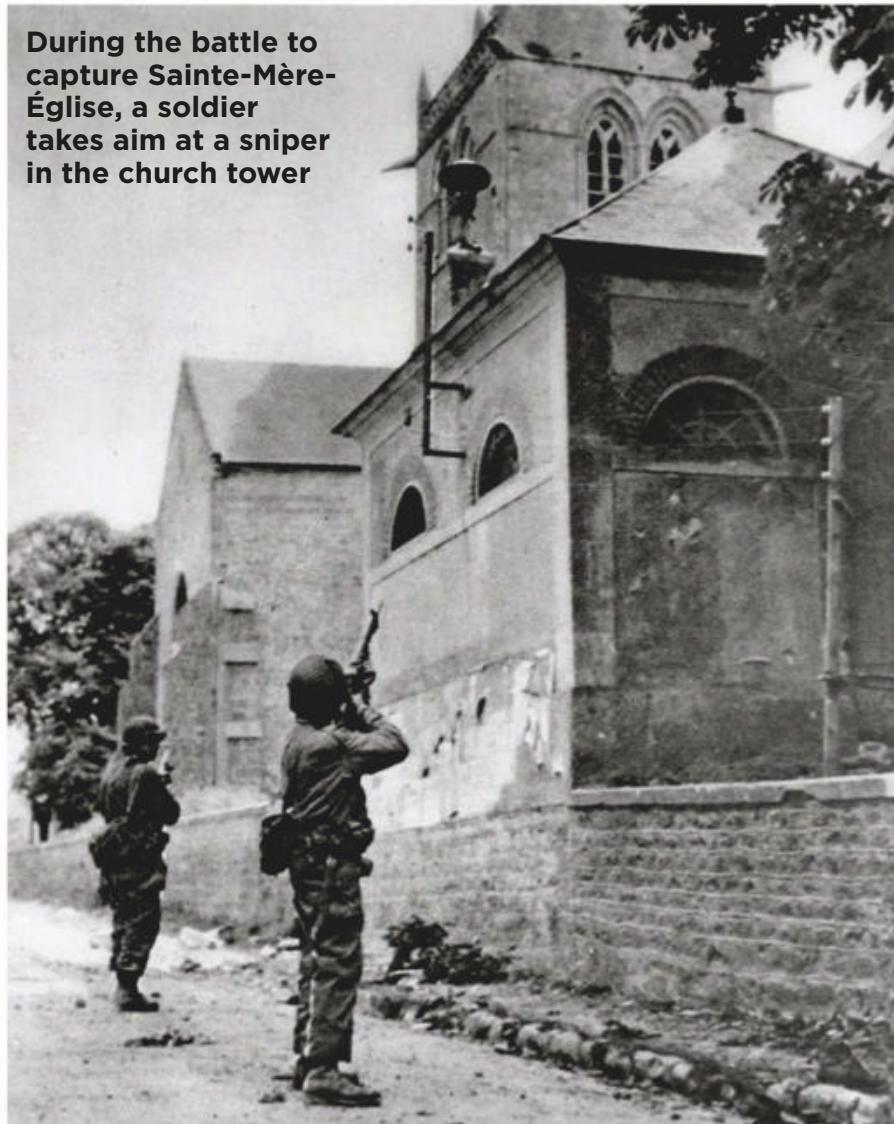
Eisenhower had to give the order more than two days in advance of the landings.

On Sunday 4 June, Stagg had a ray of good news. If the charts were correct, a cold front would bring clear skies and calmer seas for much of the following Tuesday. That evening, he told Eisenhower and his staff, gathered in the library of Southwick House, outside Portsmouth. The double blackout curtains were tightly drawn, but the rain could be heard drumming against the windows. Once he had delivered his forecast, Stagg left the room and waited for Eisenhower's decision. He was still in the corridor when the general strode out and said with a broad smile: "Well Stagg, we're putting it on. For heaven's sake, hold the weather to what you told us."

While a final and irrevocable decision would be taken at 4.15am the next day, Eisenhower had fired the starting gun and it would soon be too late to halt the invasion. Within hours, the D-Day armada was pushing out into the English Channel.



During the battle to capture Sainte-Mère-Église, a soldier takes aim at a sniper in the church tower

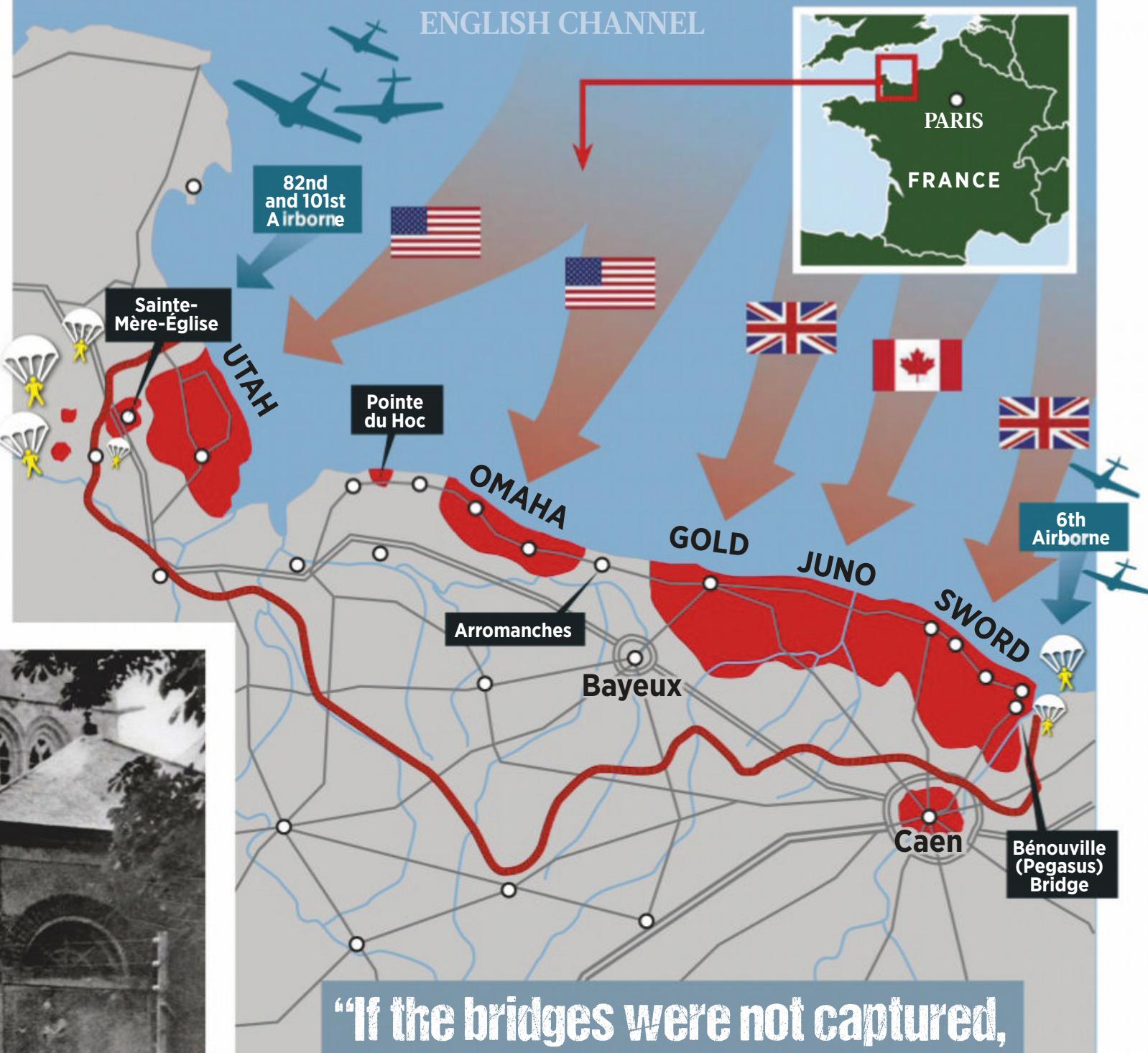


towards the coast and attack the beach landings that were going to begin first thing in the morning.

Landing by glider was always a terrifying experience, as Parr knew all too well, but on this particular landing deep into enemy territory, the skids hit the stony ground and all anyone could

THE INVASION

D-Day – the launch of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of German-occupied Europe – was a combination of airborne and amphibious assaults, which were meticulously planned and kept secret from the Germans



"If the bridges were not captured, Panzer tanks would sweep across and attack the beaches"

see was sparks. In a shower of fire and debris, the crippled remnants of the glider slammed to a violent halt and for a few moments, the men on board were knocked unconscious.

"Charlie, get out!" shouted Parr to his buddy, Charles Gardner, when he finally came round. The pair were part of a five-man team – the Scout Section. Fearless and highly motivated, they were first to reach Bénouville Bridge. "Come out and fight, you square-headed bastards," screamed Parr. He and Gardner began working as a dangerous double-act, pitching grenades (explosive and phosphorus) into the German dugouts surrounding the bridge while their teammates provided covering fire.

"If the shrapnel didn't get them," said Parr, "the phosphorus would."

The men worked with clinical efficiency, aware that it was kill or be killed, until one of Parr's comrades sensed that the enemy were losing heart. "As we neared the far side of the bridge, still shouting, firing our weapons and lobbing hand grenades, the Germans ran for their lives, scattering in all directions." It marked the end of the firefight, with the battle for Bénouville Bridge over as dramatically as it began. The Allies had won their first victory.

While the British captured Bénouville, and also Ranville, the US paratroopers were fighting their way through the night to Sainte-Mère-Église. This was also a critical target. Not only did the

THE FATAL FLAW IN NAZI INTELLIGENCE

Colonel Helmuth Meyer was in charge of counter-intelligence for the 15th Army of the Wehrmacht, responsible for eavesdropping on the messages broadcast by the BBC each evening that contained coded orders for the French Resistance. Meyer had been told the Allies were intending to use these messages *personnels* to send out information on the date of the forthcoming invasion. The opening verse of a 1866 poem by Paul Verlaine was to be transmitted exactly a week before the planned invasion, then a second verse would be transmitted on the eve of the landings.

Meyer picked up the first verse of the poem at 9.20pm on Thursday, 1 June: "Les sanglots longs, des violons de l'automne" (The long sighs of the violins of autumn).

"Now something's going to happen," he said to his intelligence staff. It was vital for them not to miss the second verse, which would alert them to the fact that the invasion was imminent. It duly came at 9.33pm on Monday, 5 June. The message went: "Blessent mon coeur, d'une langeur monotone" (Wound my heart with a languor of sameness).

It was the breakthrough Meyer needed. Unless it was an elaborate hoax by the Allies, he now knew that Eisenhower's troops would be landing within hours. He flashed the news through to Hitler's headquarters in Bavaria, where it was transmitted to General Alfred Jodl, Chief of Operations Staff. He was in a position to order a general alert and send a warning to every command post in northern

France, as well as to the Kriegsmarine and Luftwaffe. But Jodl did not trust Meyer's intelligence, for there had been too many false alarms over previous weeks. He declined to warn the army charged with defending the coastline of Normandy once D-Day had begun.



ABOVE: General Alfred Jodl (right) with Adolf Hitler

RIGHT: The Germans strengthened coastal defences, but did not know the invasion would come at Normandy



ABOVE: German infantry look out from their bunker, one of the many along the Atlantic Wall

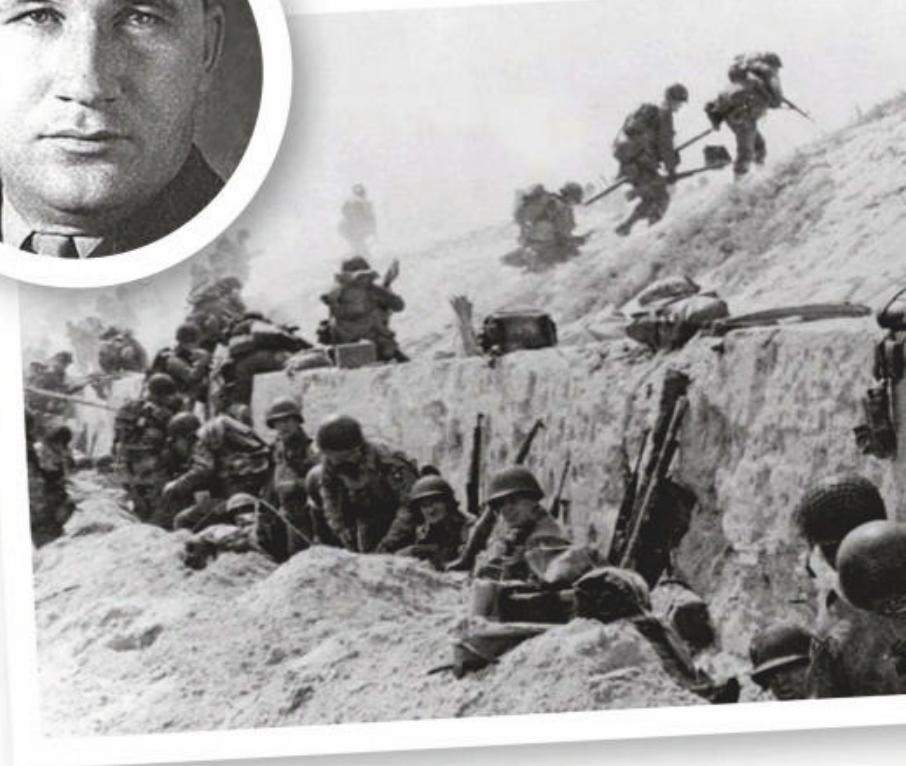
INSET: Leonard Schroeder was shot twice in the arm as he came ashore at Utah Beach

town straddle the main road to Cherbourg, but it was also just a stone's throw from Utah Beach, the most westerly of the five landing beaches.

Utah was the destination of 25-year-old Captain Leonard Schroeder and his men from F Company, 8th Infantry Regiment. If all went to plan, they would land at dawn and so become the first Allied soldiers to set foot in Normandy. Following in their wake would be hundreds of vessels laden with jeeps, tanks and armoured vehicles, as

well as 21,000 men of the 4th Infantry Division.

Schroeder was a bulldozer of a man, with a thick-set face, a pronounced nose and the nickname Moose – an appropriate moniker for someone as stock-solid as the giant animal of his native North America. He had pushed his men hard, leading them through mock landings and using live ammunition. In doing



so, he transformed them from teenage volunteers into a highly competent force.

As Schroeder boarded his landing craft at around 2.30am, he was given encouragement from his battalion commander, Carlton McNeely. "Well, Moose, this is it. Give 'em hell." But for all the fighting talk, the two men choked up as emotion got the better of them. Each knew they might well be killed.

ON THE BEACH

Schroeder's landing craft led from the front, scouring the shingle as closed in on Utah Beach in the early morning light. He jumped into the waist-deep water and surged through the waves, dodging mines, barbed wire and small arms fire. A few more paces and he hit the beach. Schroeder had just made history. He was



ABOVE: As US soldiers wade into the brutal fighting on Omaha Beach, photographer Robert Capa takes this image

LEFT: Troops of the US 4th Infantry Division on Utah had a much easier time of it than the men on Omaha

the first Allied soldier to land from the sea on D-Day, and the moment hit him: "Goddam, we're on French soil!"

His lads made a spirited dash across the sand and eventually reached the low seawall, which offered a refuge of sorts. In the matter of a few minutes, Schroeder's troop was ashore, and thankfully only a few men were down. If the other four beach landings went as smoothly, D-Day would be a walkover.

That was not to be. There was a very different story unfolding on Omaha Beach, just a few miles to the east. Here, the 19-year-old German conscript Karl Wegner was crouched in one of the concrete strongholds, WN-72, and glued to his binoculars, growing more and more scared at the sight of the Allied fleet off shore. No less frightening were the approaching landing craft.

"A German machine gun opened up... Baumgarten saw the surf around him froth bright red"

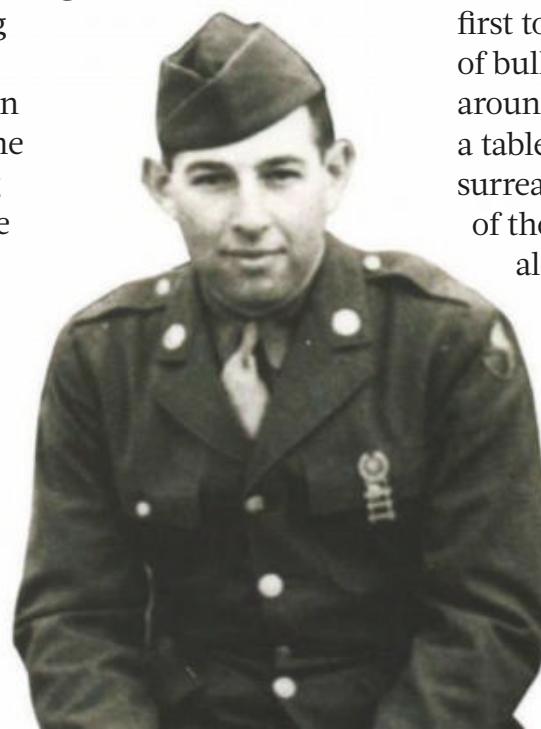
"Suddenly, they all turned and began to come straight in towards the beach. The sweat rolled down my brow as I watched these boats come closer and closer. My stomach was in knots."

"Feuer, Wegner, feuер!" His commanding officer, Lance-Corporal Lang, was screaming at him. But Wegner had frozen out of panic at the thought of killing "all those men in olive brown uniforms splashing through the water towards the sand". Lang took the butt of his pistol and, as Wegner put it, "crashed it down on the top of my helmet". This had the desired effect. "The metallic clang brought me to life and I pulled the trigger up tight."

"THIS WAS WAR"

As Wegner opened fire with his machine gun, he saw men collapse into the sand while others desperately sought cover on the exposed beach. He

Private Hal Baumgarten was wounded five times in the first two days of the invasion



was struck by how easy it was to kill, how little energy it needed. "My mind rationalised it: this was war. Even so, it left a sour taste in my mouth."

To the US troops on the receiving end – young men like Private Harold 'Hal' Baumgarten – it was as if they'd landed in hell. Baumgarten jumped into the water just as a German machine gun opened up on the ramp of his landing craft. His comrade, Clarius Riggs, was first to be mown down, killed in a spray of bullets. Baumgarten saw the surf around him froth bright red. It was a tableau so macabre that it seemed surreal: "Men with guts hanging out of their wounds and body parts lying along our path."

There was a cataclysmic bang and a shower of lethal fragments. Baumgarten felt as if he had been hit with a baseball bat. "My upper jaw was shattered, the left cheek was blown open. The roof of my mouth was



Duplex Drive tanks offered vital support during fighting in Ouistreham

FUNNY TANKS OF D-DAY

Supreme Allied Commander Dwight D Eisenhower was aware of the dangers of lightly armed infantry landing on a heavily defended beach. He therefore decided to make use of the latest technology – which would allow amphibious tanks to come ashore, emerging from the sea, at the same time as the infantry.

These were called DD tanks (meaning Duplex Drive, but they were known to the troops as Donald Duck), the invention of a maverick genius named Sir Percy Cleghorn Stanley Hobart. He was in charge of the 79th (Experimental) Armoured Division Royal Engineers, which was to develop and champion the use of 'Hobart's Funnies', a bewildering array of unconventional vehicles. These included the amphibious tank, armoured bulldozers and

anti-landmine flail tanks, which had a revolving drum with chains attached to flail the ground in front of the tank and neutralise any mines.

To one observer, the DD tanks looked like "odd-shaped sea monsters, depending upon huge, doughnut-like, canvas balloons for flotation". They were, in fact, 33-ton Sherman tanks that sat alarmingly low in the water. It must have been nerve-wracking to drive them through the choppy seas. If a wave crashed over their canvas flotation screens – or if the screens became waterlogged – they sank like stones, and there was little chance of escaping alive.

Hobart's Funnies were a triumph on Gold, Juno and Sword beaches, providing much needed armoured support. But they arrived late at Utah, landing after the first wave of infantry, while many of the tanks destined for Omaha sank in the rough seas. If they had successfully made it to the shore, the battle for Omaha might have been far less costly.

The Crab, a modified Sherman with flailing chains, could safely detonate mines in front of the tank



cut up and teeth and gums were laying all over my mouth."

As blood gushed from the wound, Baumgarten looked along the beach. For as far as he could see to both the left and right, his friends and comrades of B Company, 116th Infantry Regiment, were being cut down. He would be wounded twice more that day. Omaha Beach was a hellish massacre from which there was no escape.

The first wave to land on Sword Beach – some 30 miles further to the east – had met with a similar fate. When Cliff Morris, a soldier with No 6 Commando, came ashore at around 8.40am, the beach told a sorry tale of what had happened to the lads of the East Yorkshire Regiment. "Bodies lay sprawled all over the beach, some with legs, arms and heads missing, the blood clotting in the sand."

The sound was even worse, like the amplified wail of an animal in pain: "The



moans and screams of those in agony blended with the shriek of bullets and whining of shells," said Morris

Among those who came ashore with him was Stanley 'Scotty' Scott of No 3 Commando, who saw no reason why his troop couldn't be first to reach Bénouville Bridge, where Wally Parr and the men of 6th Airborne had been holding out since capturing it shortly after midnight. To this end, he and four others made a dash for the bridge in a welter of fire.

MOVING INLAND

Scott and his unit moved swiftly inland after a bruising beach landing. "Blokes going down left and right," said Scott. As they reached the farthest end of Le Port, a village close to the bridge, they came across a lone British paratrooper seated on the ground with his shattered leg propped up on a chair. He looked Scott up and down and cried: "Where the **** have you been?!"

From there, the last 100 metres to the bridge were extremely perilous. "Rounds hitting from all sides, there was rounds ricochetting off and splatting and hitting," said Scott. Four of the men sailed through the gunfire, with Scott himself in the lead, but the fifth got caught in crossfire. "Campbell was just the unlucky one. He got clobbered. He got hit through the neck, fell down in one big lump."

Scott tore across the bridge at high speed before taking refuge behind a burned-out German vehicle. He had made remarkable progress, reaching the bridge in advance of their commander, Lord Lovat. But his day was not over yet.

He, Morris and their fellow commandos were tasked with seizing the high ground inland from the bridge, and to do so before nightfall to prevent the Germans from being able to launch a counter-attack.

During the afternoon, they were to suffer some serious setbacks, and none more so than when they were bowling towards the village of Amfreville. "There was a gun, a dirty great Russian thing on wheels with a shield, and when we came around that bloody corner, wallop, we got hit," said Scott. "Dixie Dean got it in the guts ... I couldn't do a thing for him; he was just looking at me."

Les Hill got a bullet through his head, while "Westley got hit in the wrist. And Bud Arnott, he lost a foot." In one burst of fire, Scott's team had been decimated, a devastating blow to this band of close-knit comrades. It was also a reminder of the dangers of being in the front line, the tip of the spear: the first to advance were the first to be hit.

Yet even in times of such crisis, when the situation hardly warranted it, there were flashes of dark humour. One of Scott's mates, Paddy Harnett, was worried he'd taken a bullet in the groin, right between his legs. "All he kept saying was, 'Scotty, is my wedding tackle all right? Scotty, is my wedding tackle all right?' And I said, 'For Christ's sake, Paddy, you've got it through the arse, you haven't got it through anything else.'"

The men pushed on until they reached Amfreville, where they dug in for the night, but there was to be one final twist to that longest of days. And it was one that came as a bolt from the blue. "We had only been here a few minutes when all was excitement." The French inhabitants of the town had burst out of their houses, yelling as they pointed at the sky: "Avion! Boche avion!"

It took seconds to realise what was happening. While the Luftwaffe had

"Even in times of crisis, when the situation hardly warranted it, there were flashes of dark humour"

The British move inland from Sword, but the fighting proves to be fierce





"The troops were famished; they had eaten next to nothing since vomiting their grease-slicked breakfasts"

been absent for much of the day, it had now taken to the skies and spotted the commandos in their exposed frontline positions. The troops on the ground stared at the planes, approaching at a very low altitude, in gut-wrenching anguish. "The sky," said Cliff Morris, "was black with planes".

But the locals had made a mistake, which became apparent as the huge formation wheeled overhead. Morris was among the first to see that they were not "Boche" planes. They were friendlies: British and Canadians bringing in a whole new wave of the Airborne Division. War correspondent Noel Monks saw it too: "They came over us so low we felt our cheers would have been heard in the noiseless gliders as they slipped their tows," he wrote.

VICTORIOUS DAY

For many Allied soldiers, the short summer night that ended D-Day was spent in shallow foxholes. The vast full Moon might have provided comfort against the darkness, but instead it felt like the carbide beam

of a spotlight. Morris and two comrades had dug a shelter of sorts that offered only rudimentary protection. "Mortars kept banging away, heavy fire broke out in front of us and flares blazed up at regular intervals," he would recall.

Troops were famished, for they had eaten next to nothing since vomiting their grease-slicked breakfasts. John Madden, a Canadian paratrooper, managed to gulp down a hearty feast of meat stew, two eggs and a hunk of rough brown bread, and long before it was digested, the day's exertions dealt him a blow of fatigue. He was so exhausted he could scarcely move.

There were to be many incongruous sights that night following the landings, and the strangest of all was taking place inland from Gold Beach. Major Peter Martin had landed that morning with his kit and weaponry – and a wind-up gramophone. Now, in the midnight air, he opened its cover and slipped on *Paper Doll* by the Mills Brothers. Here was a upbeat number to lift men's spirits; a means to escape the horrors



ABOVE:
Memorials much like this can be seen at many D-Day sites today

TOP: Omaha Beach would later be home to an Allied harbour, but on D-Day the Allies only succeeded in carving out two small beachheads

of the day. Elsewhere on the Normandy coast, Allied soldiers hid in fear of their lives, but in this particular field, far from German earshot, the Mills Brothers crooned into the moonlight.

It was a joyous end to a victorious day. Some 11,000 Allied soldiers had fallen in battle or been seriously wounded. Yet against all the odds, the Allies had secured a foothold in Normandy. It was a foothold that would lead to their ultimate victory in World War II. ☀

GET HOOKED

READ

Giles Milton's *D-Day: The Soldiers' Story* (John Murray, 2018) narrates the events of 6 June 1944 with accounts from both sides



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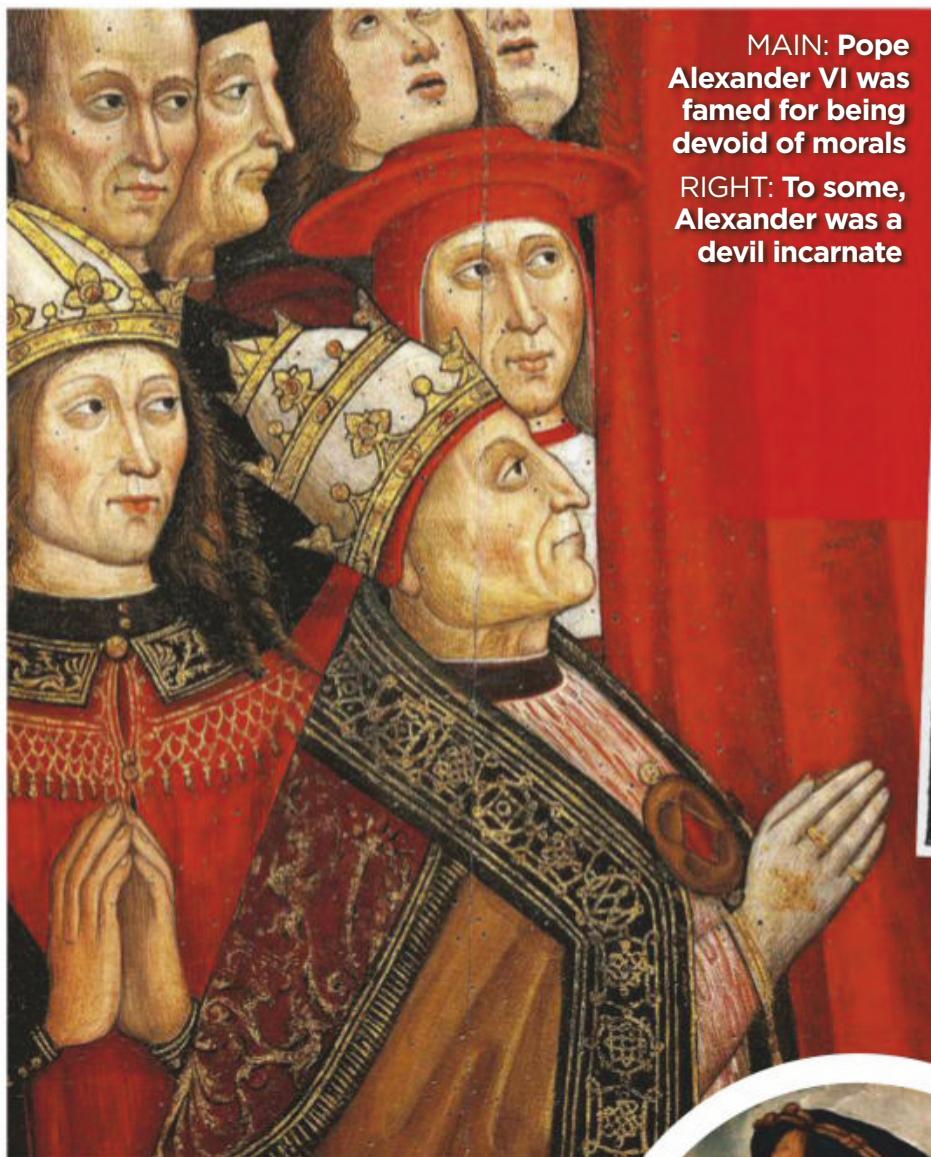
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As the only recognised daughter of Pope Alexander VI, Lucrezia's marriages forged important alliances for her family – but her husbands didn't always fare well

ALAMY

LUCREZIA BORGIA

She is renowned as a poisoner and an adulteress, and may have had an incestuous relationship with her brother. Are any of these rumours true? **Emma Slattery Williams** tries to unpick the fiction



MAIN: Pope Alexander VI was famed for being devoid of morals

RIGHT: To some, Alexander was a devil incarnate



LEFT: Lucrezia's brother Cesare was rumoured to be both the murderer of her second husband and her lover



Lucrezia was born in Subiaco in 1480, where her father – already a cardinal – was a commendatory abbot

Borgia – no name conjures up more images of depravity, cruelty and immorality. Described by some as the original crime family, they exerted a vice-like grip on Renaissance Rome. The main female presence in this 'debauched' clan – Lucrezia – has been tarred with the brush of incest and murder, yet later historians cast her aside as a hapless and weak-minded pawn, used in the scheming of her father and brothers. Who was this famed beauty whose name lives on through the centuries – was she a villainess or simply an instrument in her family's games?

Lucrezia Borgia was the third child of Cardinal Rodrigo Borgia and his favourite mistress, Vannozza dei Cattanei. At her birth, her father consulted an astrologer who foretold of a remarkable future. Born in 1480, her name and that of her family would be vilified down the centuries. The Borgias originally came from Spain and were seen by the Italian noble families as outsiders – which made them natural targets of suspicion and rumour.

Rodrigo, later Pope Alexander VI, is considered to be one of the most controversial pontiffs, his reign dogged by numerous mistresses, illegitimate children, nepotism and scandal. He was made a cardinal in 1456 by his uncle, Pope Calixtus III, and was elected as pope in August 1492. A contemporary account described the attitude towards this man, who lived more like a prince than a member of the

clergy: "These are the days of the Antichrist, for no greater enemy of God, Christ and religion can be conceived." Lucrezia was one of five children that Alexander acknowledged as his own – even though sexually active popes were not unknown, this was a controversial act for God's representative on Earth.

A PRIZE AND A PAWN

Lucrezia was brought up in the household of her cousin, Adriana Orsini, where she was educated in Latin, Greek, Italian and French. She was a lover of music, poetry and dancing. She could easily move in the highest circles of society, and was so trusted for her political judgement that she was often left in charge of papal affairs while her father was away. This concerned the clergy, who did not believe a woman should be involved in the papacy – let alone the Pope's illegitimate daughter.

She was also well known for being one of the precious few who truly held sway and influence over her father. Growing up, Lucrezia would be closest to her brother, the ruthless Cesare – a

closeness that was gossiped about by Roman society who loved sexual innuendo.

On her father's accession she became a useful pawn for cementing alliances. Described as a 'graceful' beauty with golden hair, the suggestion of a marriage attracted many noble families amongst the Italian states. Alexander forged and broke numerous betrothals for Lucrezia until her first marriage was settled on.

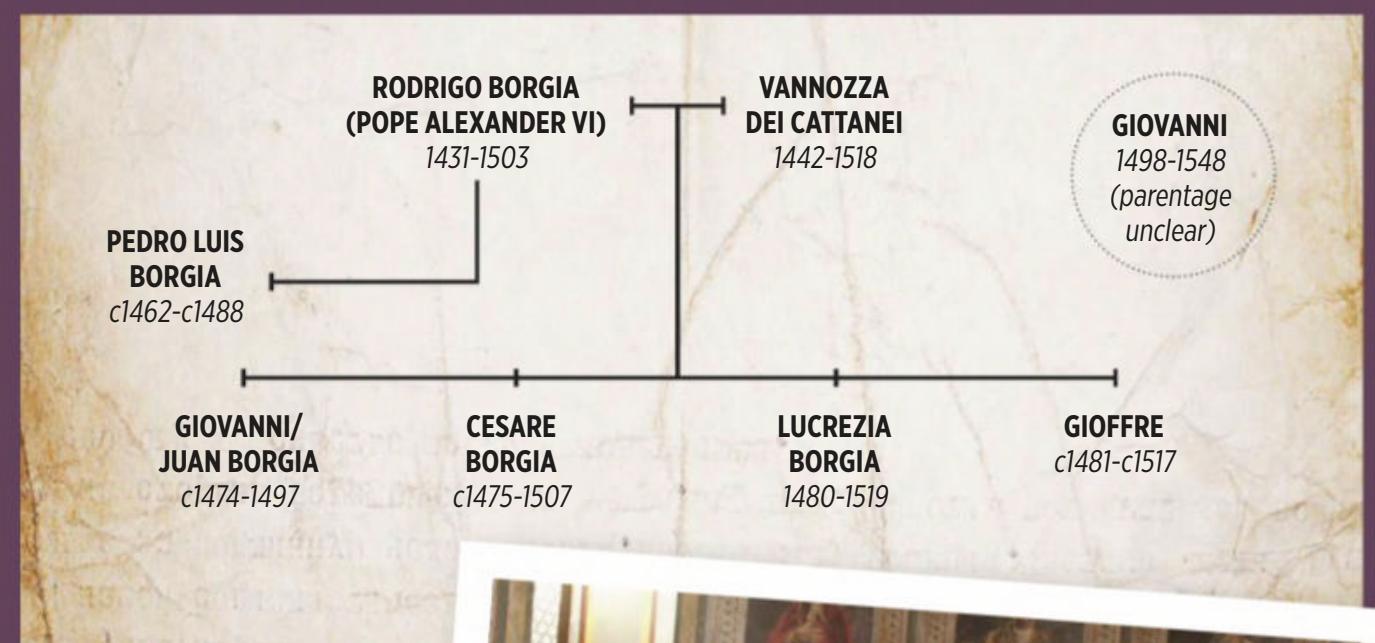
Alexander wanted to gain a powerful ally in northern Italy so he chose Giovanni Sforza, Lord of Pesaro and nephew of the Duke of Milan, as Lucrezia's first husband. She was married in 1493 to the 26-year-old (she was 13) and contemporary reports recorded extravagant celebrations that went on long into the night. Johann Burchard, chronicler and papal Master of Ceremonies during the papacy of Alexander, commented on how the family was already becoming the talk of the city after the wedding festivities for the wrong reasons: "Many other things are being said, but I am not reporting them because they are not true, and if they were true they would, in any case, be unbelievable." Burchard would later write an account of the sordid Banquet of the Chestnuts – an infamous orgy that the Borgias supposedly attended – though whether they were present is questioned.

Whereas most educated women of the era were taught by nuns, Lucrezia was tutored by intellectuals – who helped her become a capable deputy to her father



ALEXANDER'S OFFSPRING

Pope Alexander VI was born in Spanish Aragon as Rodrigo de Borja y Doms; he later Italianised his name to Borgia. A libertine and a nepotist, he is considered especially controversial for admitting to several children as his own – and it's believed that there could be four or five more whom he didn't officially recognise



The Borgias' scandalous antics has seen them painted as villains in popular culture, including in Showtime's TV series *The Borgias*



“Used to the opulence of the Vatican, Lucrezia struggled to adjust to provincial life”

Used to the opulence of the Vatican, Lucrezia found it a struggle adjusting to the provincial life in Pesaro with her husband. As time went on, the relationship with Milan became less valuable to Alexander – meaning that Giovanni was no longer needed, and his marriage to Lucrezia no longer useful. In February 1497,

during a stay in Rome, Giovanni fled in disguise to Pesaro: a popular, but unproven, reason for this is that Alexander and Cesare plotted to kill him, but he was warned by Lucrezia.

Alexander decided to annul his daughter's marriage to allow him to forge a more beneficial

alliance. He did so by claiming that Giovanni was impotent and that the marriage hadn't been consummated, to the Duke's embarrassment and anger. It was a blatant lie: it was well known that Giovanni's first wife had died in childbirth.

THE TALK OF THE TOWN

The annulment proceedings brought the discussion of Lucrezia's virginity into the public eye. Her sex life would be a continuing topic for the gossips of Rome, few of whom believed the marriage had not been consummated. When asked to agree to the ending of the marriage, Giovanni accused Lucrezia of incest with both her father and brother – an idea with no basis in fact but which would shadow the Borgia family for centuries.

Lucrezia was sent to a convent while the negotiations took place and enemies of her family whispered tales of her being pregnant, while her father pleaded her virginity. Giovanni was eventually persuaded to agree. He was permitted to keep Lucrezia's dowry.

Scandal continued to follow Lucrezia as, around the same time, a boy was born into the Borgia family with unclear parentage. Alexander



In this Vatican fresco Lucrezia is painted as St Catherine of Alexandria, who is said to have been martyred by the pagan Roman Emperor Maxentius in the fourth century for her faith



MAIN: Lucrezia with an unknown man; posion was said to be her weapon of choice, not a dagger

RIGHT: Her second husband, Alfonso, was strangled in his own bed, apparently at her family's command

issued two papal bulls – one declaring the boy, named Giovanni, an illegitimate son of Cesare's and the other that he was a child of the Pope himself.

Neither prevented the rumours that the newborn was Lucrezia's, and perhaps the product of an incestuous relationship. Then, in February 1498, the body of one of Alexander's valets – Pedro Calderon – was found on the banks on the Tiber. He was whispered to be a favourite of Lucrezia's and was another contender for the father of her rumoured child. The death remains a mystery, but Lucrezia's brother Cesare was assumed to be Pedro's killer.

In July 1498, Lucrezia was married to Alfonso, Duke of Bisceglie and the illegitimate son of the King of Naples. They seemed to have enjoyed a happy yet brief marriage. She may have been married off for politics, but she found love – even taking her husband's side against her father during a dispute on the legality of

the marriage of Alfonso's cousin Beatrice, Queen of Hungary.

Alfonso and Lucrezia had a son in 1499, named Rodrigo for his grandfather. It wouldn't be long, however, until her family's scheming would wreck her happiness. The mood shifted against Naples as an alliance with France began to develop – thanks to Cesare's marriage in May 1499 to Charlotte d'Albret, a cousin of the French king. Alexander realised he could gain much more from an improved relationship with France – which was threatening Naples. Another of Lucrezia's husbands had run their course of usefulness.

Alfonso had sensed the mood against him had changed and fled Rome for a short period. In July 1500, he was attacked on the steps of St Peter's Basilica. The would-be assassins were fought off by his guards, but he still suffered severe wounds. Lucrezia personally nursed her beloved husband as the rumours flew about who could have been behind the assault.

Este Castle in Ferrara, the seat of her third husband and the city that would become her final resting place



Alfonso had attracted many enemies but apparently suspected Cesare, as did many others. A month later, while he was still recuperating, Alfonso was strangled to death by a servant of Cesare's. Cesare was never officially accused of ordering his death, but the Borgias were now seen as a family to fear. This left a devastated Lucrezia a widow at 20. The desired break with Naples was achieved and Lucrezia was again free to serve her family's interests.

It was around this time that Lucrezia developed a reputation as a poisoner – enemies of her family enjoyed inventing new scandalous tales to spread. According to the rumours, she would store toxic substances in a ring she wore. Poison was a popular method of murdering someone in Renaissance Europe and has often been described as a women's weapon of choice. It became inexplicably associated with Lucrezia, who is not known to have poisoned anyone – though it is known that enemies of her family often disappeared mysteriously.

The third marriage arranged for Lucrezia was to Alfonso d'Este, heir to the dukedom of Ferrara, in December 1501. This was a match that



Alfonso d'Este went to war with Rome to prevent Pope Julius II from stealing his lands



Renaissance Italy

During the 15th and 16th centuries, Italy was not a unified nation – that would not happen until 1870 with the final addition of Rome. Instead, it was divided into city states that were ruled by noble families. These included Milan, Venice and Florence. The Papal States were territories with the Pope at the head. The Kingdom of Naples – later known as the Kingdom of Sicily – was constantly fought over by the French and Spanish monarchies. Despite these divisions, between the 14th and 17th centuries, Italy was at the forefront of developments and innovation in the arts, music, literature, philosophy and science. It would produce some of the greatest minds including the poet Dante, polymath Leonardo da Vinci, scientist Galileo Galilei and painter Michelangelo.

“When Alfonso became duke in 1505, Lucrezia became a respected duchess and a patron of the arts”

Lucrezia herself was actively involved in, as it would propel her into an advantageous position she could only dream of. A hard bargain was struck as Lucrezia's supposed tainted reputation – rumours of incest, poisoning and the grisly death of her last husband – had spread far and wide and a high dowry of 100,000 ducats was finally agreed on. At the request of her new husband's family, Lucrezia had to leave her son Rodrigo behind to be raised by his relatives – she would never see him again.

FREE AT LAST

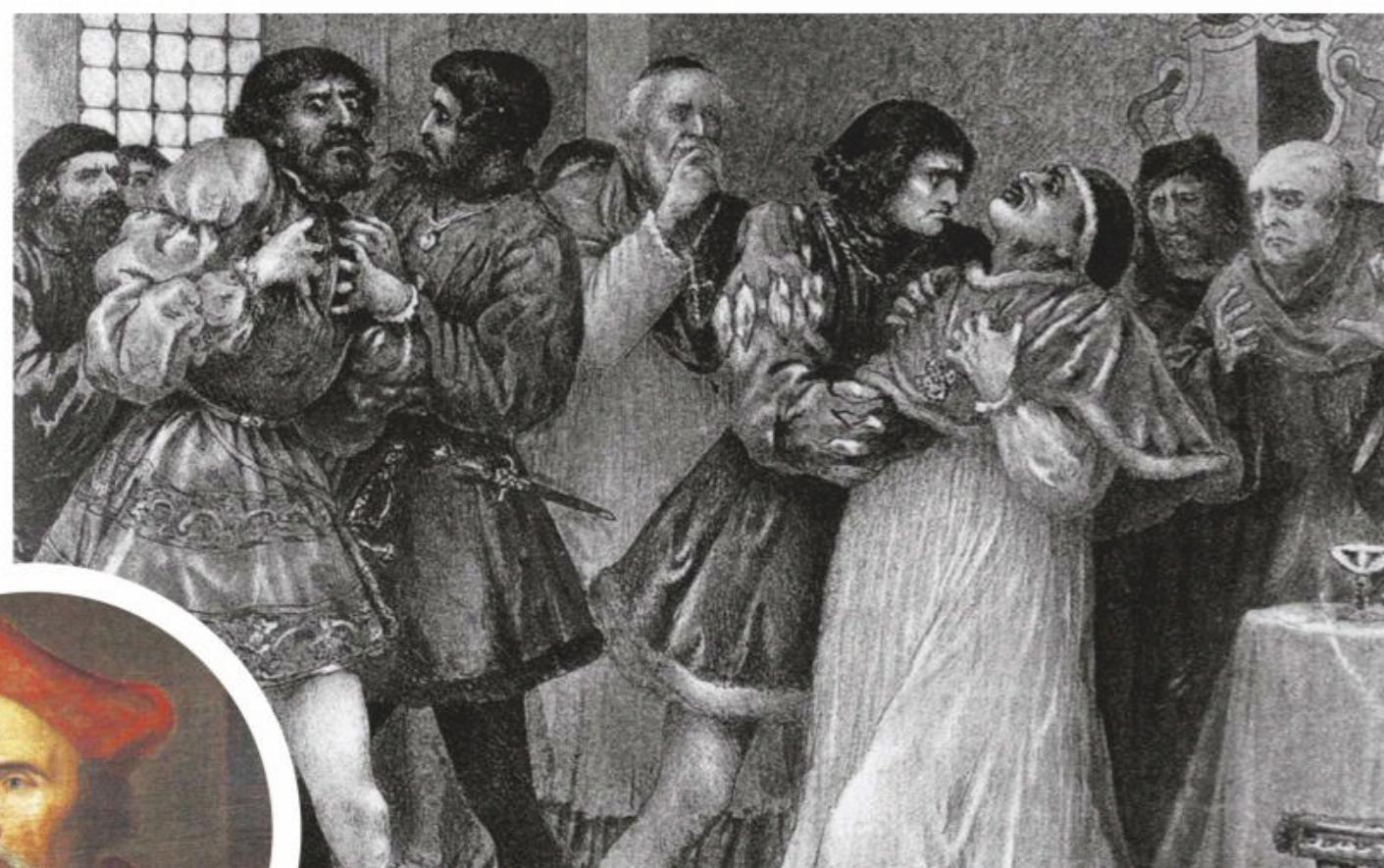
In 1503, Pope Alexander died – again suspicion was never far away. There were whispers that he had been poisoned accidentally by Cesare as part of a plot to kill a cardinal, but his death was probably caused by a fever or malaria. With his death, Cesare's power diminished and Lucrezia was able to leave the deadly world of politics behind.

This was a mostly happy marriage – though Lucrezia is believed to have had an affair with her brother-in-law at some point. When her husband became duke in 1505, she became a respected duchess and a patron of the arts. Her court was full of the most renowned poets and artists of the day – including the poet Pietro Bembo, who has often been described as the greatest love of Lucrezia's life. Rumours of her scandalous life began to diminish – or her subjects gave them no credence. Lucrezia and Alfonso's court was held in high

esteem and they would go on to have eight children – though only four of them would survive to adulthood.

Lucrezia played an active role in the defence of her new home, Ferrara. In 1510, Pope Julius II excommunicated Alfonso as part of his machinations to add Ferrara to the Papal States. The city was placed under interdict – banning the participation in rites and sacraments. Lucrezia

was praised for her courage and calm during the crisis, entertaining the French troops who had come to Ferrara's aid and pawning her jewels to raise money for Ferrara's defence. Though her family were vilified for their cruelty, Lucrezia showed her merciful side by refusing the orders of her husband to torture arrested men.



ABOVE: It was speculated that Alexander VI died of poison; a fever is more likely
LEFT: The poet Pietro Bembo – the great love of Lucrezia's life?



Rossetti's 'Lucrezia Borgia' imagines her washing her hands after poisoning her second husband – helped by her father, seen 'comforting' the victim in the mirror



BELOW: Gaetano Donizetti's opera *Lucrezia Borgia* was one of many works to popularise her reputation as a poisoner

◀ The poet Ariosto was one of those who wrote warmly about Ferrara's beloved duchess: "Lucrezia Borgia? Who, from day to day, shall wax in beauty, virtue, chastity, and fortune, that like youthful plant will shoot, which into yielding soil has struck its root."

In 1512, Lucrezia learned the news of the untimely death of her 12-year-old son Rodrigo, whom she had not seen for many years. She reportedly ran away to a convent for some time, overwhelmed by grief and from then on, lived a more pious and withdrawn life.

After suffering complications during childbirth in 1519, Lucrezia died at the age of 39. She was mourned greatly by the people of Ferrara, but she had ensured that the Borgia line would live on in her descendants in both the clergy and nobility – her son Ippolito would become a cardinal and Ercole took on the role of Duke after the death of his father.

INFAMY IN DEATH

After her death, her reputation was reassessed and the idea of her as a villainess reappeared. The 19th-century writer Victor Hugo wrote a play about her that was later turned into an opera – this fuelled the legend of the

"After her death, the idea of Lucrezia as a villainess reappeared"

Her reputation has swung between dangerous femme fatale to a pawn used by men – though Italian Renaissance historian Mary Hollingsworth says she is neither. Perhaps she was somewhere in between – Lucrezia's is a story of a woman who did what she had to in a dangerous world. ◎

GET HOOKED

READ

Mary Hollingsworth's *The Borgias: History's Most Notorious Dynasty* (Quercus, 2014) traces the story of this lustful and power-hungry family

Ask the expert



MARY HOLLINGSWORTH

British historian specialising in medieval Italy, whose works include books on the Borgias and Medici

Q Why was the Borgia family singled out and vilified?

A Other famous papal dynasties, notably the Medici and the Farnese, behaved in much the same way as the Borgias – all promoted undeserving sons and nephews, most ignored the rule of celibacy and all were accused by their enemies of equally lurid crimes. The difference is that the Borgias were foreign and, unlike the home-grown dynasties, had no descendants to embellish and reinvent their historical image to gloss over their past.

Q Do you believe Lucrezia deserved her reputation as femme fatale or innocent pawn?

A She was neither – the images belong to the history of the family. A cardinal had the status of a prince in Renaissance society, and as the daughter of a cardinal she had a particular status in the marriage market.

Q How should history view her?

A As an example of how an intelligent and educated woman could survive in a world run by men. One of the great things about the Borgia story is that, because it has not been reinvented, we have the opportunity to see a Renaissance woman behind the mask.

Q What was life like for a woman in Renaissance Italy?

A That depended on her class and also on where she lived. The wife of a modest craftsman in Venice or Florence lived reasonably well, but life in a village in the mountains must have been very harsh. Lucrezia was lucky, brought up in the lap of luxury in Rome and married to a succession of lords. She had her own household of ladies-in-waiting, courtiers and menial servants. She was highly educated, she loved music and poetry, and she loved parties. She was also entrusted with the reins of government, first for her father in Rome and then as Duchess of Ferrara when her husband was away.



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THE LONGEST DAY

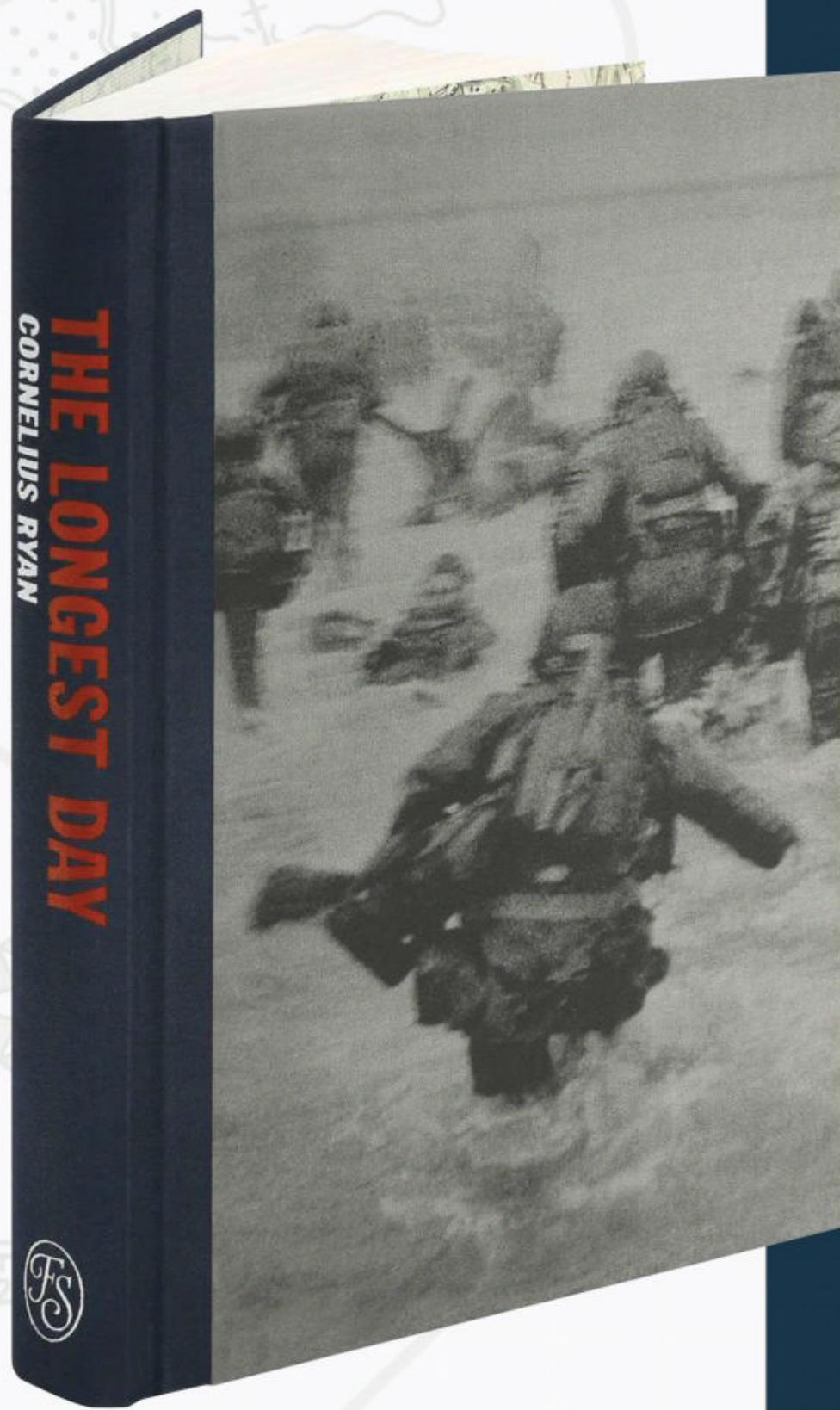
The D-Day Story, June 6, 1944

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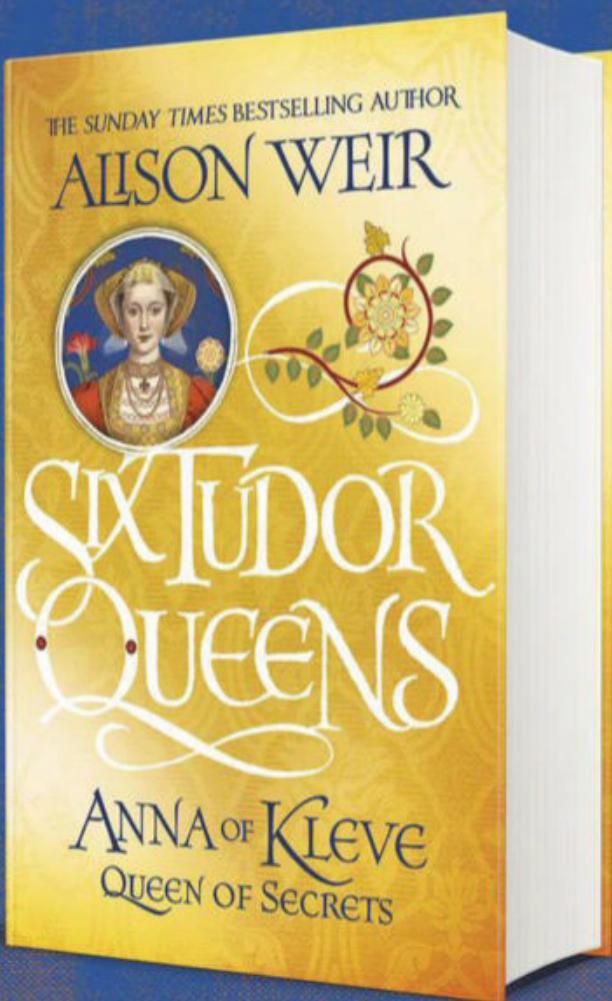
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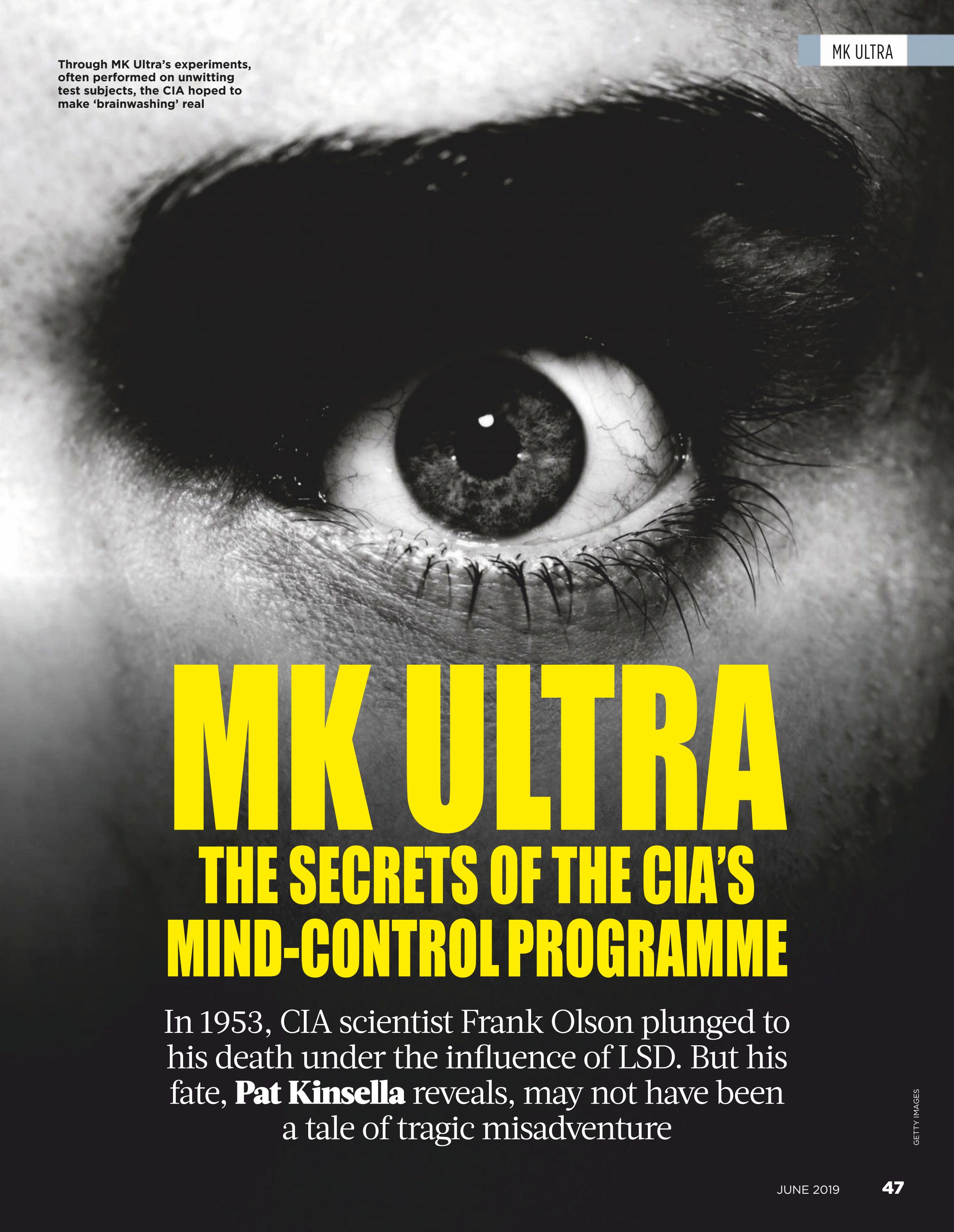


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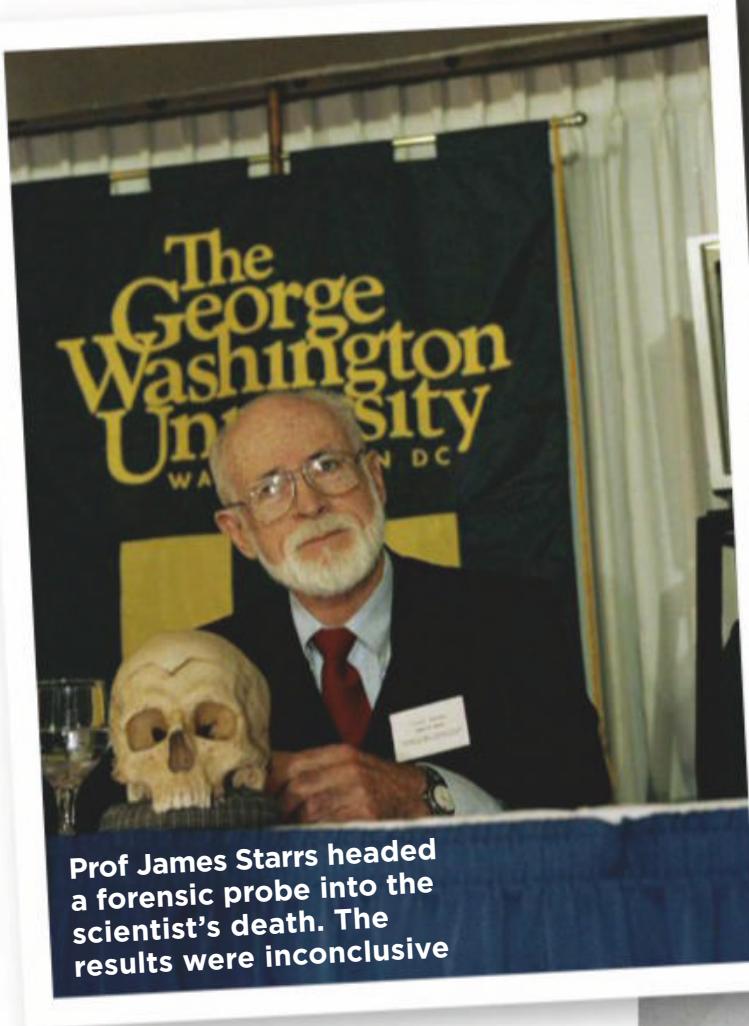
Through MK Ultra's experiments, often performed on unwitting test subjects, the CIA hoped to make 'brainwashing' real



MK ULTRA

THE SECRETS OF THE CIA'S MIND-CONTROL PROGRAMME

In 1953, CIA scientist Frank Olson plunged to his death under the influence of LSD. But his fate, **Pat Kinsella** reveals, may not have been a tale of tragic misadventure



Prof James Starrs headed a forensic probe into the scientist's death. The results were inconclusive

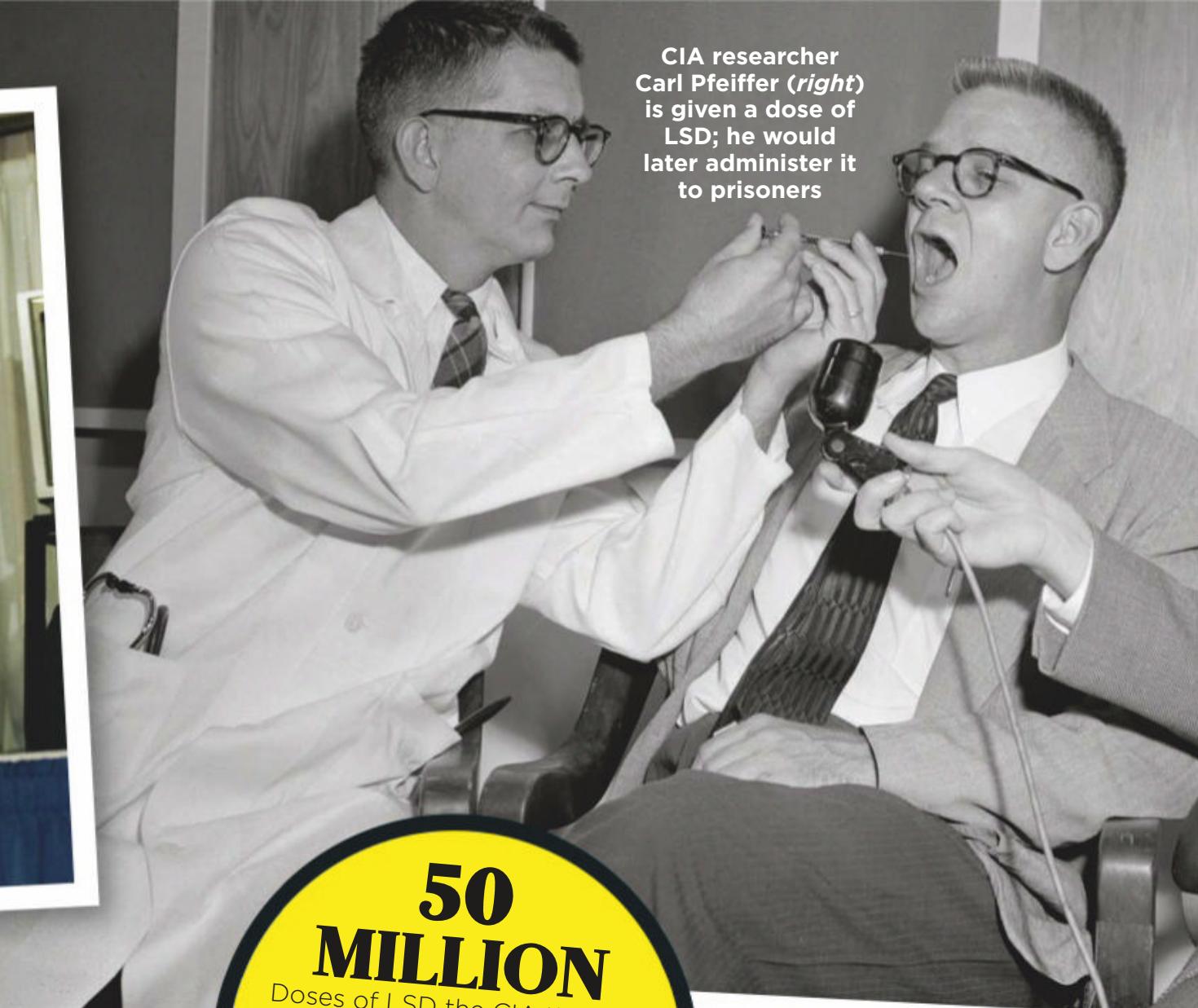
In the small hours of the morning, on 28 November 1953, a research scientist plunged to his death from the 13th floor of a Manhattan hotel. As far as his family was aware, Dr Frank Olson had been working for the US army, and the official line was that he had committed suicide because of job-related stress.

Twenty-two years later, the CIA confessed that its agents had given Olson the hallucinogen LSD, without his consent or knowledge, and that his subsequent death was probably caused by the effects of the drug. US President Gerald Ford even issued an official apology. This was an extraordinary sequence of events, but it transpired that the real story was much deeper, and a whole lot darker. If the US government thought it had drawn a line under the affair by admitting limited culpability for one man's death and saying sorry, it was gravely mistaken.

As the increasingly sticky layers were peeled back, this episode would become one of the biggest scandals to ever hit US intelligence services – a troubling tale involving biological weapons, pharmaceutical torture, illegal drug experimentation on innocent US citizens, and murder.

ULTRA SECRET

The narrative revolves in concentric circles around a clandestine project known as MK Ultra, most tangible traces of which were hastily destroyed by the authorities involved during investigations into rogue CIA activity following the Watergate scandal in the early 1970s.



CIA researcher Carl Pfeiffer (right) is given a dose of LSD; he would later administer it to prisoners

50 MILLION

Doses of LSD the CIA thought the Soviets had purchased in the late 1950s, giving rise to a fear that a PsyOps attack against the US was imminent. It was a false alarm: the analyst who broke the case had put the decimal point in the wrong place.



Eric Olson has continued to press US authorities for the truth of his father's fate

But some documents were not destroyed and not everyone was silenced. New clues came to the fore too, not least a report by a forensic scientist after Olson's body was finally exhumed in 1994, which discovered physical evidence suggesting that he had been struck on the head and then thrown through the window.

The full extent of the story and scale of the cover-up is still unravelling. In 2012,

“THE FULL EXTENT OF THE STORY AND SCALE OF THE COVER-UP IS STILL UNRAVELLING”

six decades after Frank Olson's death and following years of indefatigable work by his eldest son Eric, the family filed a lawsuit against the CIA, claiming the scientist had been tortured and killed by the agency after witnessing horrendous human rights abuses.

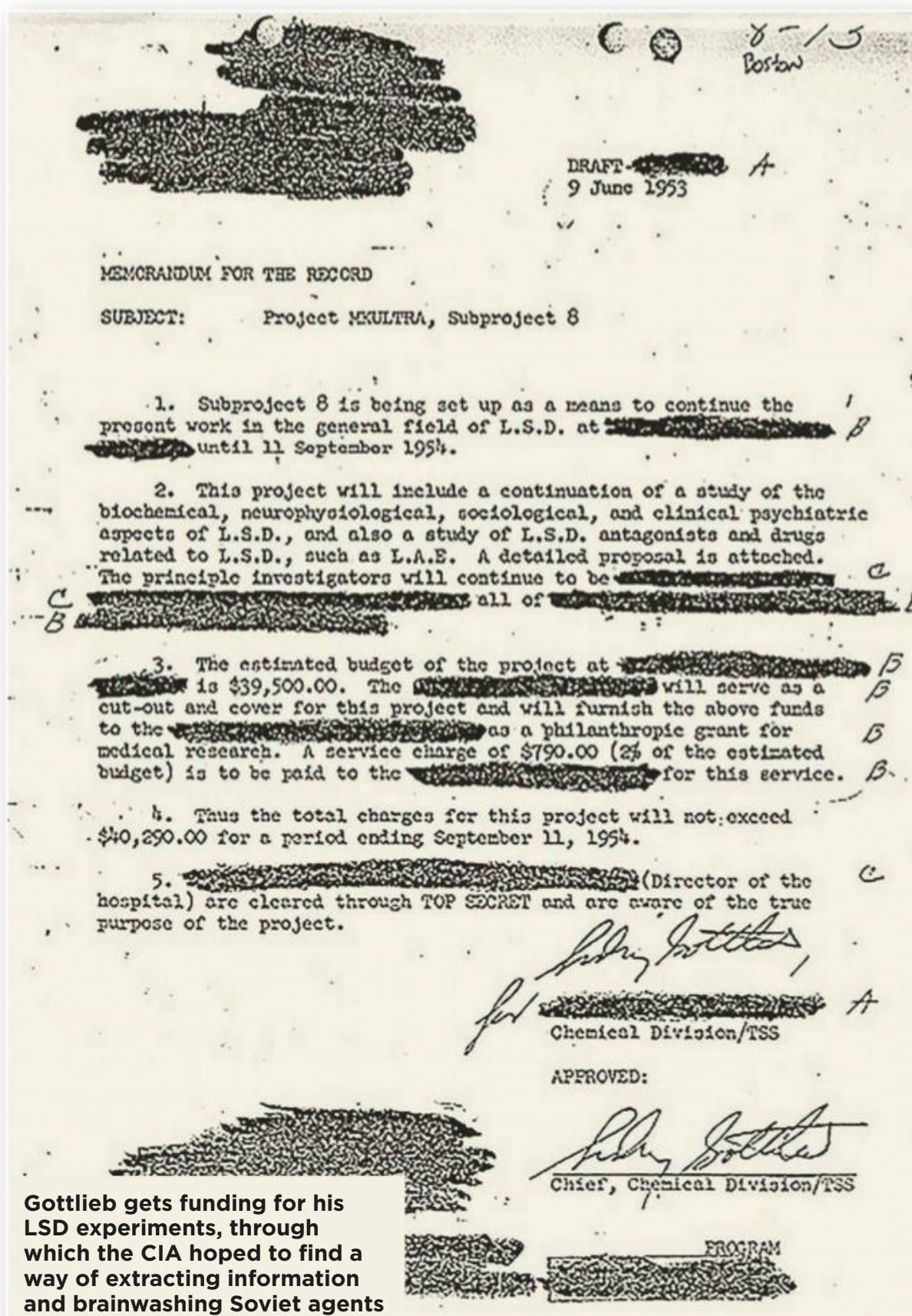
Even now, documents are being drip-fed into the public sphere that shine more light on one of the shadiest episodes of the CIA's history, and the US government's extraordinary attempts to

conceal the truth – a saga that involves names that remain part of the tapestry of modern US politics.

BRAIN GAMES

By the time the US became embroiled in Vietnam, the official strategy was all about winning hearts and minds. But before that – during the deep-frozen depths of the early Cold War, as a decidedly warm war sparked on the Korean peninsula – the focus was on the ability to break hearts and control minds.

In the early 1950s, the US military – which had just lost its monopoly on the atomic bomb – was increasingly paranoid about Soviet-Bloc intelligence services potentially employing aggressive brainwashing techniques on US soldiers and POWs. In response, the obliquely named MK Ultra was officially authorised by CIA director Allan Dulles in April 1953. Led by CIA chemist and poison expert, Sidney Gottlieb (aka the 'Black



Gottlieb gets funding for his LSD experiments, through which the CIA hoped to find a way of extracting information and brainwashing Soviet agents

'Sorcerer' or 'Dirty Trickster'), it conducted research into the use of psychological operation (PsyOp) strategies on enemy combatants and prisoners, experimenting with reality-altering drugs – including psychedelics and paralytics – and brain-twisting techniques to radically influence human behaviour.

The CIA purchased a huge supply of LSD from Sandoz, the Swiss pharmaceutical company that discovered the hallucinogen. Gottlieb championed the idea of harnessing the mind-bending properties of the drug to inflict torture, extract information and influence people's performance in combat or clandestine operations. The programme also experimented with heroin, MDMA (ecstasy), methamphetamine, mescaline, barbiturates, psilocybin (magic mushrooms), temazepam, cannabis and alcohol.

Besides drugs, electroshock therapy and hypnosis were also employed to create confusion, panic, anxiety and amnesia. The idea, according to Gottlieb, was to use "techniques that would crush the human psyche to the point that it would admit anything".

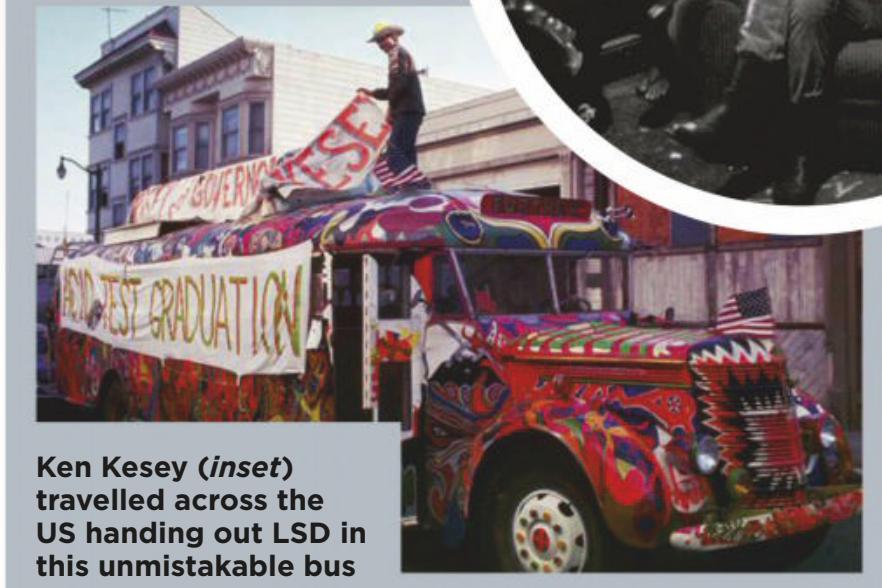
DIRTY DEEDS

Wholesale human experimentation was conducted in universities (including Columbia and Stanford), hospitals, mental institutions and jails across the US and Canada between 1953 and 1964.

Some of the subjects were volunteers, many of them students – including Ken Kesey (who later wrote *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*) and Ted Kaczynski (who became the murderous Unabomber). Others were prisoners, patients, drug addicts, vulnerable children, drop-outs and sex workers, and plenty – including CIA staff – didn't even know they were

KEN KESEY AND THE MERRY PRANKSTERS

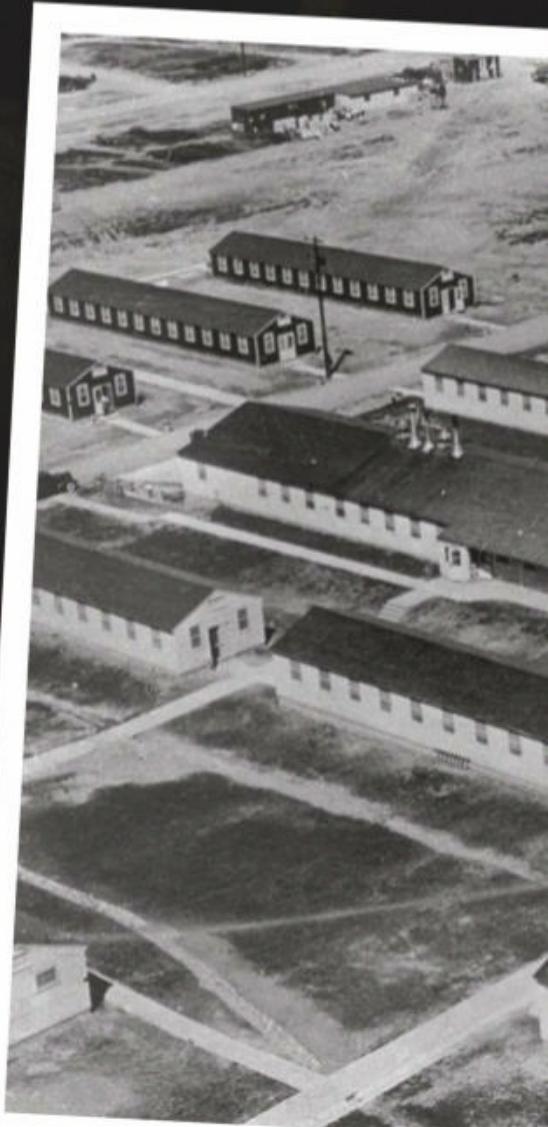
In 1959, Ken Kesey, who later wrote *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, voluntarily took part in medical trials (secretly financed by the CIA as part of MK Ultra) that studied the effects of LSD and other drugs at California's Menlo Park Veterans' Hospital, where he worked as a night aide. Kesey was a clean-living athlete at the time, training for a spot on the US wrestling team for the 1960 Olympics. The experience was transformative, unlocking a creative urge, hugely influencing Kesey's writing and seeing him become a counter-culture icon. He organised regular parties – called Acid Tests – blending drug use with art and live music, typically performed by the Grateful Dead (singer-songwriter and Grateful Dead lyricist Robert Hunter was also involved in the MK Ultra trials). In 1964, Kesey and his cohorts – collectively known as the Merry Pranksters – travelled across the US in a psychedelic school bus called 'Further', throwing parties and giving out LSD (including to Hells Angels), antics described in Tom Wolfe's *The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test*, and also in the work of Allen Ginsberg and Hunter S Thompson.



Ken Kesey (inset)
travelled across the
US handing out LSD in
this unmistakable bus

being tested on, and were given psychological manipulators while at work to see how they would perform.

Subjects were routinely administered LSD and given mock interrogations in extreme conditions, with sensory deprivation or over-amplification used to disorientate and scare them. Threats of extending bad trips were used to extract information. LSD was reportedly inflicted on a mental patient in Kentucky for almost six months, while another group of volunteers were given the hallucinogen for 77 consecutive days.



1947

The year the Nuremberg Code was created, in response to evidence of Nazi-era human experimentation. It outlawed exactly the kind of activity conducted by the CIA and US military during the Cold War.

Netflix series *Wormwood* tells the story of MK Ultra through the eyes of Frank Olson (*lying down*)

eminent British psychiatrist Donald Ewen Cameron, then chairman of the World Psychiatric Association and president of the American and Canadian psychiatric associations, who was ostensibly attempting to cure schizophrenia by erasing patients' memories and reprogramming their psyche.

Handsome paid through a fake organisation called the Society for the Investigation of Human Ecology, Cameron apparently never knew he was being employed by the CIA. Nevertheless, some of the most disturbing experimental and unethical practices of MK Ultra allegedly took place under his supervision at Montreal's Allan Memorial Institute. Subjects (many of whom were children)

Unsurprisingly, this sometimes resulted in death and permanent mental disability.

During Operation Midnight Climax, conducted primarily in San Francisco and New York City, the CIA hired prostitutes to lure men back to safe houses, where – completely unbeknown to them – they were given LSD. Their behaviour was observed by agents who were stationed behind two-way mirrors (agents who were often, they later admitted, drinking cocktails). Videos were also made of these activities, with recording equipment disguised as electrical devices.

Around 80 institutions were involved in the tests, most oblivious to what was really happening. The CIA even recruited

were placed in drug-induced comas for long periods, forced to listen to looped tapes of repetitive noises, subjected to electroconvulsive therapy at extreme levels and exposed to sexual abuse.

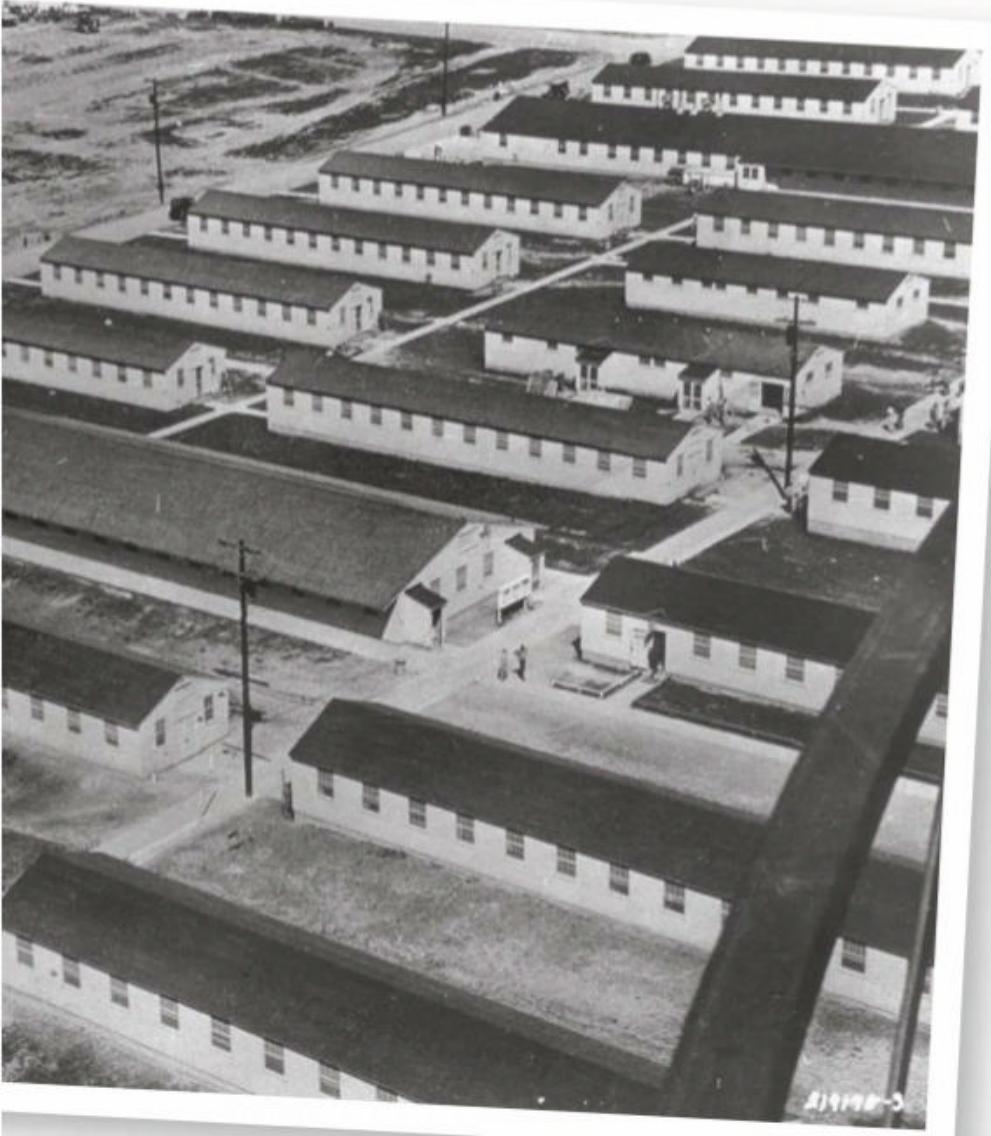
Olson was a minor character in opening scenes of this horror show, but his violent death would eventually expose the whole affair.

DEATH OF A SCIENTIST

In 1950, Olson had been selected to work for the Special Operations Division (SOP) of the US Army's biological laboratory at Fort Detrick in Maryland. Initially engaged as a civilian contractor, he was later recruited by the CIA's Technical Services Staff (TSS), run by Sidney Gottlieb and his deputy, Robert Lashbrook.

By 1952, he was head of department, tasked with developing aerosol weapons capable of transmitting diseases like anthrax. Unsurprisingly, his family recall

“THE CIA HIRED PROSTITUTES TO LURE MEN BACK TO SAFE HOUSES, WHERE THEY WERE COVERTLY GIVEN LSD”



Fort Detrick was at the heart of US bio-warfare research: it was here that anthrax was weaponised

that his work seldom made him happy. When he came home in particularly sombre moods, they knew experiments had gone well that day and that all the monkeys had died.

The following year, Olson visited military bases in Paris, Norway and West Germany, and Britain's biological and chemical warfare research centre in Porton Down, near Salisbury, Wiltshire. During these trips, according to the lawsuit his bereaved family filed against the CIA, his group "witnessed extreme interrogations in which the CIA committed murder using biological agents that Dr Olson had developed".

Olson had already relinquished the division leader role to Lieutenant Colonel Vincent Ruwet, and had been harbouring severe ethical concerns about the application of his research. This trip crystallised his resolve to leave the programme and, upon returning home, he told his wife, Alice, that he would resign. However, on 19 November, Olson was taken to a meeting at Deep Creek Lake, Maryland, with Gottlieb, Lashbrook and Ruwet, where he was served a glass of Cointreau laced with LSD.

Consuming food or drink spiked with mind-bending substances was almost an occupational hazard for CIA staff at the time. Gottlieb wanted to see how his wavering staff member would react under the influence – would Olson blab about what he had been working on and witnessed? >

WHAT THE CIA LEARNED FROM THE NAZIS

At the end of World War II, as the US switched focus from fascism to the rising Soviet threat, hundreds of German scientists (senior Nazis among them) were brought to the US to help with military advancement. The priority was rocket technology, but some of the 1600 scientists recruited in Operation Overcast (later renamed Operation Paperclip) had been involved in human experimentation and the development of chemical and biological weapons, including the use of bubonic plague and sarin.

It was controversial, but the US was hungry for the scientists' expertise, and desperate to keep them away from the Soviets, so complicity in war crimes – even involvement in infamous medical experiments at Dachau and Ravensbrück – was overlooked. The Third Reich's deputy health minister, Dr Kurt Blome, who admitted experimenting with plague vaccines on concentration-camp prisoners, was acquitted during the Nuremberg Doctors' Trial thanks to US intervention. By 1951, he was working on chemical weapons for the US Army Chemical Corps.

More disturbing still, despite the Nazis' horrifying scientific practices being condemned and outlawed at Nuremberg, US authorities started secretly experimenting on humans themselves, even their own people. The nerve agent tabun was tested on unwitting soldiers, disabling them for weeks. When Brigadier-General Charles Loucks, Chief of US Chemical Warfare Plans in Europe, learned about the development of LSD, he immediately envisaged it as a weapon.

The CIA became involved and the projects evolved through several name changes and sprouted off-shoots – from Operation Paperclip to Bluebird, and then Artichoke and MK Ultra. But the overall objective remained the same:

developing PsyOps techniques and biological and chemical weapons capable of bending and breaking minds during interrogation, or spreading widespread death or incapacitation on the battlefield. They even toyed with creating unwitting assassins, programmed while under the influence of hypnosis and drugs, and activated remotely, as in Richard Condon's 1959 novel *The Manchurian Candidate*.

Until MK Ultra saw experiments take place in universities and hospitals across the US, most research happened at the Army Chemical Corps at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The worst human testing was done in what would later be called 'black sites' – clandestine facilities such as Camp King near Frankfurt, Germany, out of sight and reach of US law. Frank Olson worked at Fort Detrick and, in 1952, travelled to Camp King to witness his handiwork being used on human subjects, with lethal consequences for both the subjects and the doctor.

Blome is believed to have subjected Auschwitz inmates to nerve gases



The effect of the drug was profound. Exactly what Olson revealed to his CIA handlers over the weekend isn't known, but Alice reported that her husband returned from the three-day meeting depressed and withdrawn. On 24 November, he told Ruwet he wanted to be removed from the project.

Instead, the troubled scientist was talked into subjecting himself to psychiatric evaluation, and three days later, on Thanksgiving weekend, he travelled to New York. On 27 November, he checked into the Statler Hotel, where he shared a room with a CIA doctor.

He saw a physician – an allergist, not a psychiatrist – went to the theatre and returned to the hotel. In the early hours of the following morning, 42-year-old Dr Frank Olson smashed through the window of his room and plummeted to his death on the sidewalk below.

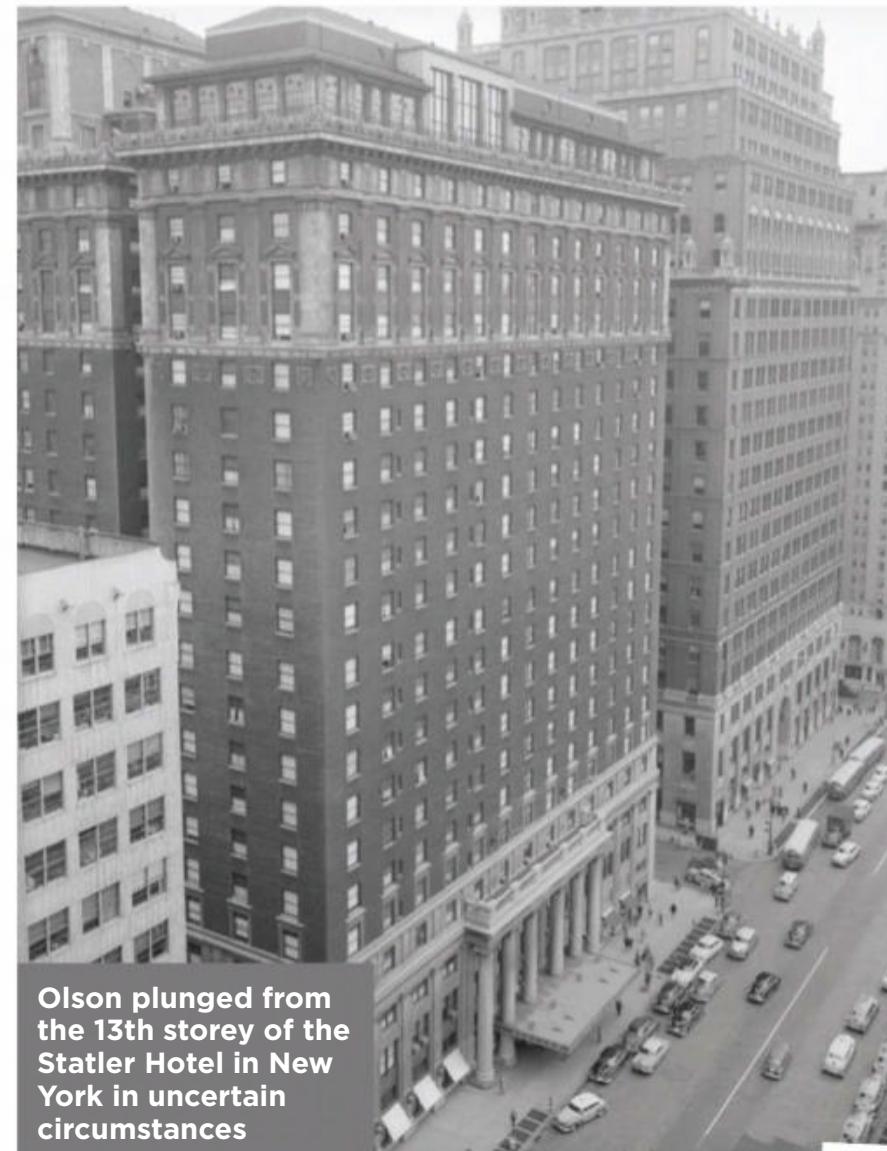
According to the lawsuit later brought by the family, immediately after the incident, someone in Olson's hotel room made a phone call, and the operator heard a voice say: "Well, he's gone".

In 1984, Eric Olson visited that hotel room and concluded, from the dimensions, it wouldn't have been possible for someone to run and throw themselves through the window. That's when he began proceedings to get his father's body exhumed.

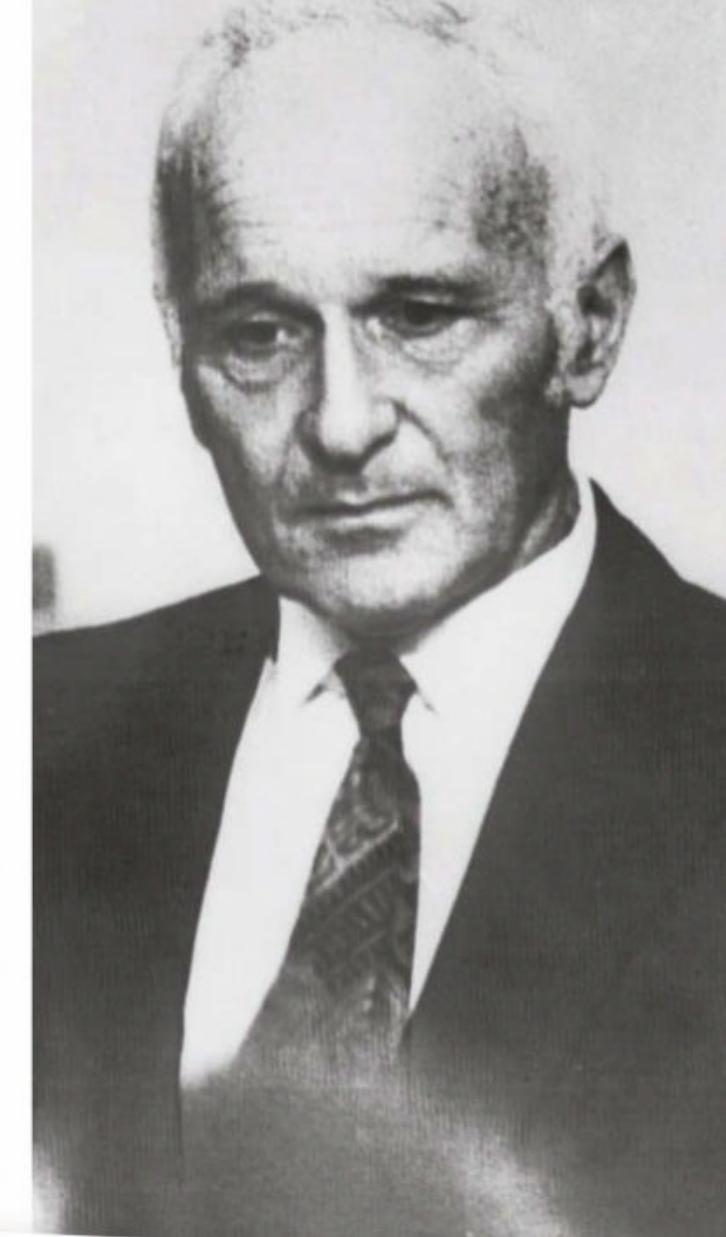
THE COME DOWN

Investigative journalist Seymour Hersh wrote a piece for *The New York Times* in 1974, exposing how the CIA had orchestrated non-consensual drug experiments and illegal spying operations on US citizens. The nation had recently been rocked by the Watergate scandal, in which the CIA was complicit, and newly installed president Gerald Ford set up the United States President's Commission on CIA Activities within the United States, better known as the Rockefeller Commission, to scrutinise illegal CIA activities, including MK Ultra.

In 1975, the Church Committee conducted another, more expansive investigation into illicit CIA (and FBI) operations during Nixon's presidency. These included assassination plots against foreign heads of state, such as Fidel Castro, which MK Ultra leader Sidney Gottlieb was also heavily involved in. The findings of these investigations led to President Ford's 1976 Executive Order on Intelligence Activities, which specifically outlawed "experimentation with drugs on human subjects, except with the informed consent, in writing



Olson plunged from the 13th storey of the Statler Hotel in New York in uncertain circumstances



"THE CIA MAY HAVE USED MK ULTRA FINDINGS TO DEVELOP ITS TWO-STAGE TORTURE METHOD"

and witnessed by a disinterested party, of each such human subject".

Leading government officials – including Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld – calculated that a personal apology from the President, coupled with a promise of a financial settlement and a glimpse at the surviving paperwork, would appease (and silence) the grieving Olson family. And they were correct – but only temporarily.

As more evidence dripped out, documentation from the period was declassified and court cases were successfully fought by victims of MK Ultra, Eric Olson – a Harvard-qualified doctor of psychology – began compiling a collage which convinced him the CIA was still withholding crucial information and covering up the truth.

In July 2013, the lawsuit against the US Government brought by the Olson family was dismissed, primarily because of conditions attached to the original 1976 ruling and settlement. However,

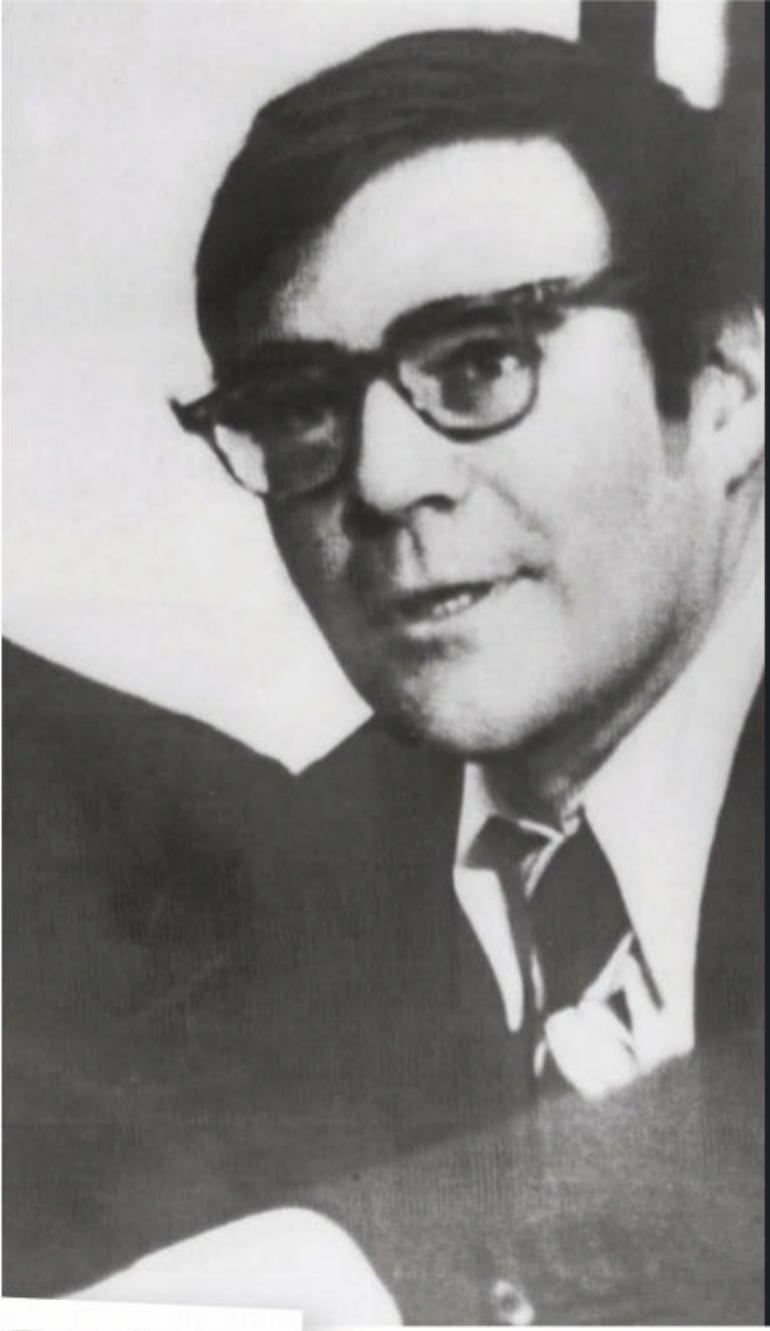


President Ford
(third from right)
invited the Olson family to the White House to apologise for the US Government's role in Frank's apparent suicide

after making his decision, US District Judge James Boasberg wrote: "While the court must limit its analysis to the four corners of the complaint, the sceptical reader may wish to know that the public record supports many of the allegations [in the family's suit], far-fetched as they may sound."

MURKY RESULTS

Some findings from MK Ultra experiments apparently fed into the CIA's 1963 KUBARK Counterintelligence Interrogation manual, and it's thought the agency also used them in the development of its two-stage psychological torture method (first you create a state of disorientation in the subject, and then you instigate a second situation of 'self-inflicted'



THE BLACK SORCERER

Besides his leading role in MK Ultra, Sidney Gottlieb also put forward plans to assassinate Fidel Castro with a poisoned cigar, a poisoned wetsuit, an exploding conch shell and a poisonous fountain pen, and formulated plots that proposed spraying Castro's TV studio with LSD and saturating his shoes with thallium to make his beard fall out. In 1960, he took a vial of poison to the Congo, where the CIA was planning to assassinate Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba by placing it on his toothbrush. In later years, he embraced an alternative lifestyle, ran a leper clinic in India and undertook work at a hospice.

Gottlieb (left, pictured with his lawyer) at a 1977 Senate Subcommittee hearing on MK Ultra. He testified after being granted immunity



Eric Olson stands at his father's grave

\$750,000

Settlement the Olson family received from the US Government (having been promised twice that amount).

LSD in field operations was ruled out because it was such an unpredictable drug. Rumours persist, though, that the programme was buried, not entirely abandoned, and the pursuit of PsyOps techniques certainly continued apace. ◎

GET HOOKED

WATCH

Netflix docu-drama series *Wormwood* explores the death of Dr Frank Olson and later revelations surrounding MK Ultra.

READ

A Terrible Mistake: The Murder of Frank Olson and the CIA's Secret Cold War by HP Albarelli (Trine Day, 2009)



THE MEN WHO STARED AT GOATS

In the late 1970s, a top-secret army unit was envisaged by leading US military figures. These supersoldiers would master and weaponise such metaphysical skills as invisibility, psychokinesis, levitation and the ability to walk through walls. They also attempted to kill goats simply by looking at them, as detailed in *The Men Who Stared at Goats*, the book by British journalist Jon Ronson that was later made into a film starring George Clooney (above), Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges and Kevin Spacey.

The film employs poetic licence, but the true story is astonishing. In 1979, Vietnam veteran Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Channon combined his frontline combat experience with some Californian LSD-laced New Age thinking and scripted a 125-page operations manual for the 'First Earth Battalion' – a platoon of Jedi Knight-like warrior monks.

Amazingly, when Channon presented his ideas to the US military's top brass, he won enthusiastic backing from Major-General Albert Newton Stubblebine III, a highly decorated career officer with three decades of service, who was in charge of revitalising US military intelligence and obsessed with psychic warfare.

It's unclear how close the First Earth Battalion came to realisation, but Ronson documents the existence of goat labs and the Major-General's failed attempts to walk through walls. Stubblebine, who presided over the US invasion of Grenada in 1983, was eventually encouraged into retirement when his spoon-bending tricks were perceived as Satanist behaviour by the devoutly Christian US Army Chief of Staff, General John Adams Wickham Jr.

Ronson's research indicates that elements of MK Ultra and First Earth Battalion thinking still echo through military intelligence, most chillingly in PsyOps techniques employed against prisoners in places like Abu Ghraib and Guantanamo Bay. These involve playing blindfolded and shackled captives Matchbox 20, Meatloaf, Limp Bizkit and Barney the Dinosaur theme music on endless earsplitting loops, possibly with subliminal messages underneath.

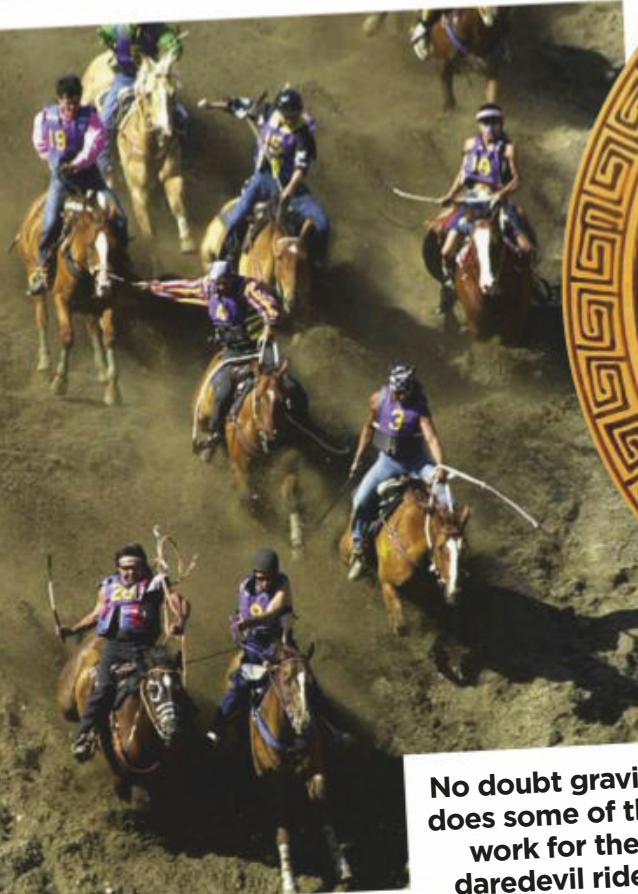
discomfort, through which the terrified and befuddled subject can alleviate their pain by capitulating).

Most of the MK Ultra-era test results are poorly recorded. Partially this is due to bad documentation (unsurprising, given that the observers were typically agents, not scientists, and were sometimes – willingly or unwittingly – under the influence of drugs themselves), and partly because of the shredding and burning frenzy ordered by CIA Director Richard Helms in 1973.

In the media maelstrom that was to follow, the CIA conceded that all such experimentation had little scientific rationale or practical use, and the use of

Wacky races

Humans have always been a competitive bunch, but some need to win no matter the contest



No doubt gravity does some of the work for these daredevil riders

SUICIDE MISSION

Riders in The World-Famous Suicide Race of Omak, in the US state of Washington, have 15 metres to get their horses up to speed before charging down a ridiculously steep hill – with a 62° slope – into a river, which they traverse, and then sprint for around 460 metres. It is hair-raising, lightning-quick and not without controversy. Animal rights groups deem the event not as suicide, but murder, and while it has a tangential connection to Native American endurance tests, the race was devised by white people in 1935 to promote a rodeo.

This car – a German Protos – was the first to reach Paris, but was disqualified because it was shipped part of the way by rail

The drivers line up at the start on Broadway, New York



The hoplitodromos doubled as a military training exercise

WHEELY LONG ROAD TRIP

The fledgling automobile got the ultimate test in 1908 when a couple of newspapers put on a race from New York to Paris. Six cars started, heading west before shipping over the Pacific and trundling through Russia and Europe. Just a few problems: it was winter, so snowdrifts made it less a race and more a crawl at times; and roads were not fit for purpose or were nonexistent. Half of the competitors dropped out, but the Thomas Flyer from the US, held together by mechanic George Schuster, reached the finish after six months and 22,000 miles.



HOP LIKE A HOPLITE

Running naked was the norm for all races in the ancient Olympics in Greece, except the hoplitodromos. This 'race in armour', which first appeared at the games in 520 BC, required competing men to wear the helmet and greaves (armour for the lower legs) and carry the large wooden shield of the hoplite soldier. They then lugged this gear over at least two lengths of the stadium – around 350-400 metres. Unsurprisingly, the Greeks used the hoplitodromos as training for the military.

Only a real big cheese has a chance of catching a 70mph wheel



I CAMEMBERT IT

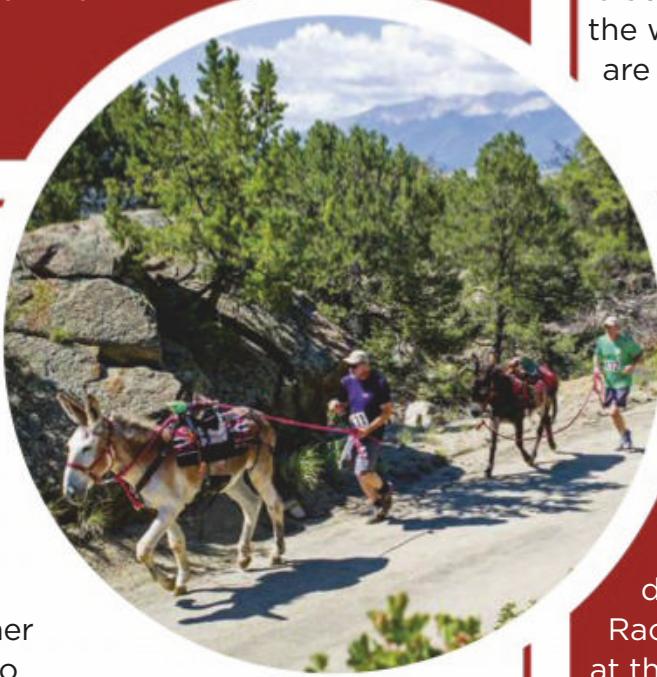
While Olympians chase gold, participants in this bizarre contest race for something less valuable, but much tastier. A round of Double Gloucester cheese is released down Cooper's Hill in Brockworth, Gloucestershire (these days it's a foam cheese; prior to 2013 it was a real one) and a second later the racers hurl themselves down the slope in pursuit. Broken bones are part and parcel of the event, which may date to the 15th century.



CRÊPE EXPECTATIONS

Shrove Tuesday is a time to eat pancakes for most people, but for some it's about running with them. In 1445, as the story goes, a woman in Olney, Buckinghamshire, was so busy preparing pancakes that she was late for church and had to run down the street in her apron and clutching her pan – and with that, the pancake race was born. The original Olney Pancake Race is still contested: only local women can compete in the 380-metre dash to the church, and they must toss their pancakes at the start and finish.

These ladies are out with a frying pan and off to a flyer



Racers can't ride their donkeys – but carrying them is fine

GOING FOR GOLD

There is a tale of two 19th-century prospectors finding gold at the same time in the same place, so they had to rush with their equipment-laden burros, or donkeys, back to town to claim the spot. Whether that happened or not, pack burro racing is now a favourite in Colorado, US. On the cross-country races, the donkeys cannot be ridden and must have at least 15kg on their saddles – but the organisers ensure they are not mistreated.

FRENCH REVOLUTIONS

The inaugural Tour de France in 1903 was such a success that there was no question of it not returning the following year. The 1904 tour, however, almost saw cycling's most prestigious race cancelled for good as it was plagued by cheating and scandals. Cyclists were stopped and even beaten by the supporters of rivals, glass and nails were scattered on the roads, and riders used cars and trains to get around. In all, 12 of the 27 finishers were disqualified, including the top four, which elevated 19-year-old Henri Cornet to the yellow jersey.

Henri Cornet (left) remains the Tour de France's youngest winner



Charlton Heston starred as champion charioteer Ben-Hur in the 1959 epic

I CARRY THEE TO BE MY WIFE

To any wives: would you trust your husband to carry you as he races along a 253.5-metre obstacle course, clambering over wooden poles and diving into pools of water? If not, Eukonkanto (wife carrying) is not for you. Men are carrying wives (it doesn't necessarily have to be their own) all over the world, but the home of the race is Sonkajärvi, Finland, where the world championships are held every year.

Taisto Miettinen and Kristiina Haapanen demonstrate the 'Estonian carry': fireman's lift and piggyback are also permissible

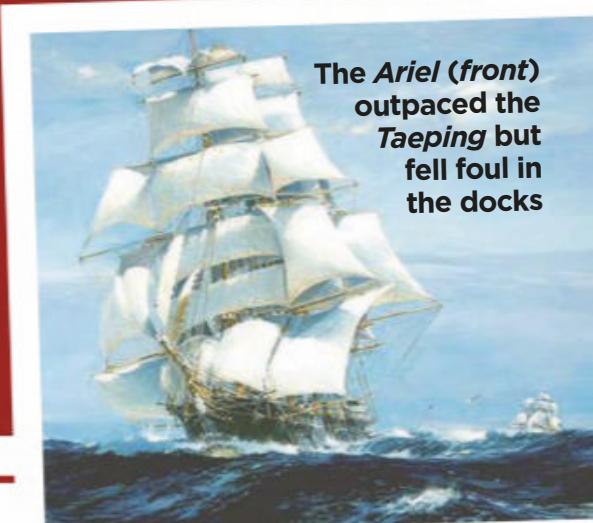


One theory for the race's roots is the ancient practice of stealing women to marry

AN OOLONG WAY FOR A CUPPA

Demand for tea in mid-19th-century Britain was so high that, every season, the clippers carrying the finest leaves from China would race to be first to London and win a premium price of ten shillings per ton. It never got more dramatic than the Great Tea

Race of 1866. Five ships set sail at the same time and remained so close the whole way that after 97 days at sea, the two leaders – *Ariel* and *Taeping* – were still in sight of each other on the English Channel. In fact, *Ariel* beat *Taeping* by ten minutes, yet took longer to dock so it was agreed for the ships to split the prize.



The *Ariel* (front) outpaced the *Taeping* but fell foul in the docks

THAT'S GONNA BEN-HURT

The Romans loved chariot races for the speed, bravery and horsemanship, but what would public entertainment in Rome be without the chance of blood and gore? As seen in *Ben-Hur*, charioteers risked their lives in the Circus Maximus,

as crashes and trampling were frequent. That makes it all the more impressive that Gaius Appuleius Diocles survived a 24-year career and won 1,462 races, which earned him more than 35 million sesterces.



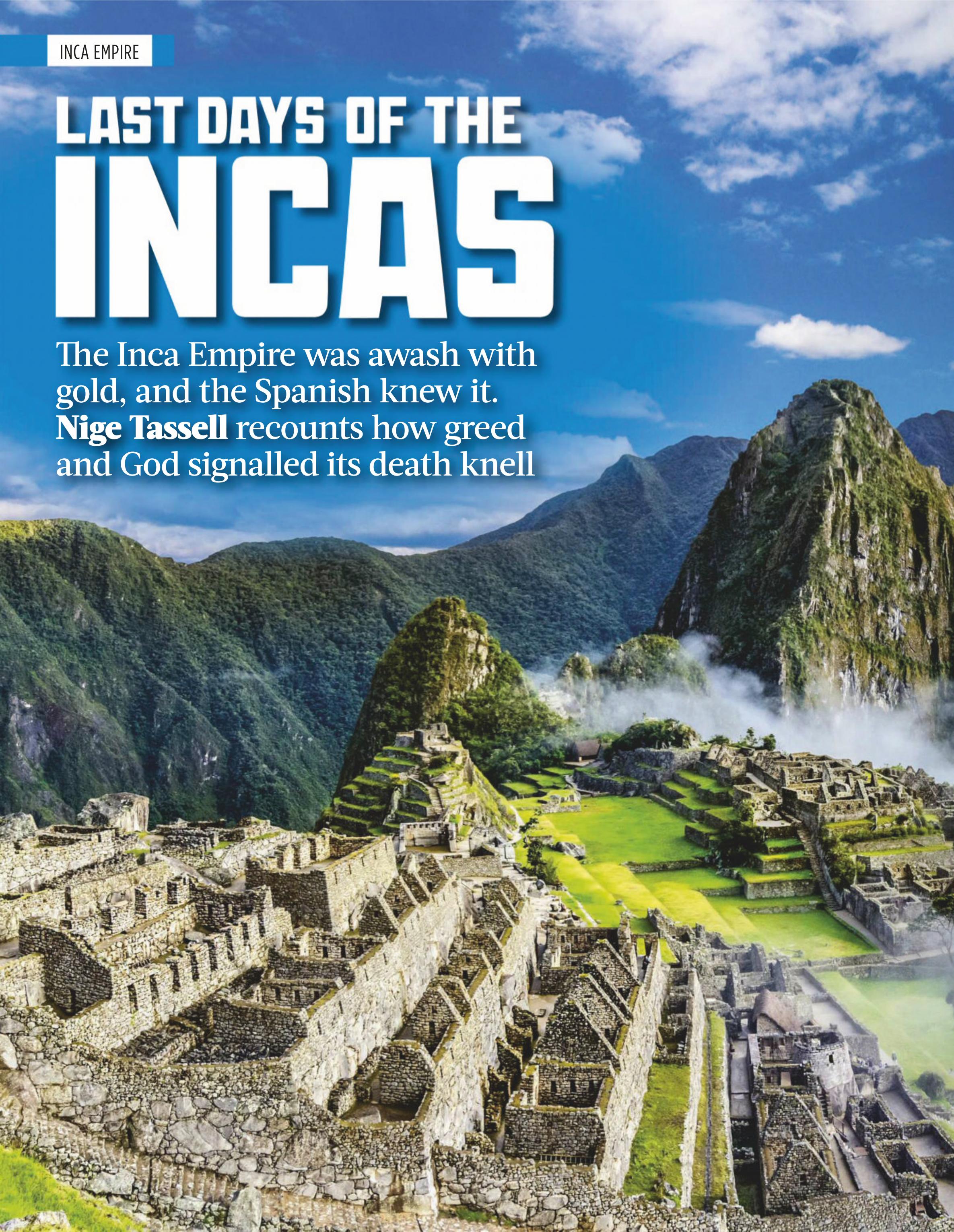
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Which of these bizarre contests tickles your fancy? Or would you champion another?
Email: editor@historyrevealed.com

LAST DAYS OF THE INCAS

The Inca Empire was awash with gold, and the Spanish knew it.

Nige Tassell recounts how greed and God signalled its death knell





MAIN: Machu Picchu is the most familiar icon of a vast empire that spanned much of South America, but it wasn't the Incas' last city - or even their capital

LEFT: The Inca Empire's famed riches (like this Tumi knife) drew unwanted attention from Spanish conquistadors

Huayna Cápac's death prompted a civil war that would leave the Inca Empire vulnerable



Huayna Cápac had never known a fever like it. Nor had his people, many of whom were suffering just as badly. He didn't have long to contemplate his condition, though. He died swiftly. The disease – almost certainly smallpox, brought to South America by European voyagers – wasn't discriminatory. It struck all levels of society.

Until his death around 1528, Huayna Cápac had been the 11th supreme ruler, the Sapa Inca, of the Inca Empire, a civilisation described by historian Jago Cooper as "the greatest pre-Colombian empire in the Americas – a land of desert temples, of palaces in the clouds, of cities hidden deep in the forests". Stretching along, and inland from, the Pacific coast of South America, at its height the empire included at least parts of present-day Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

The Incas were a resourceful people. To help bind this empire and its population together, they created a vast road network totalling 40,000 kilometres. These roads transformed the concept of food distribution; furthermore, the food being distributed had benefitted greatly from the adoption of some revolutionary agricultural methods. And this deep connection to

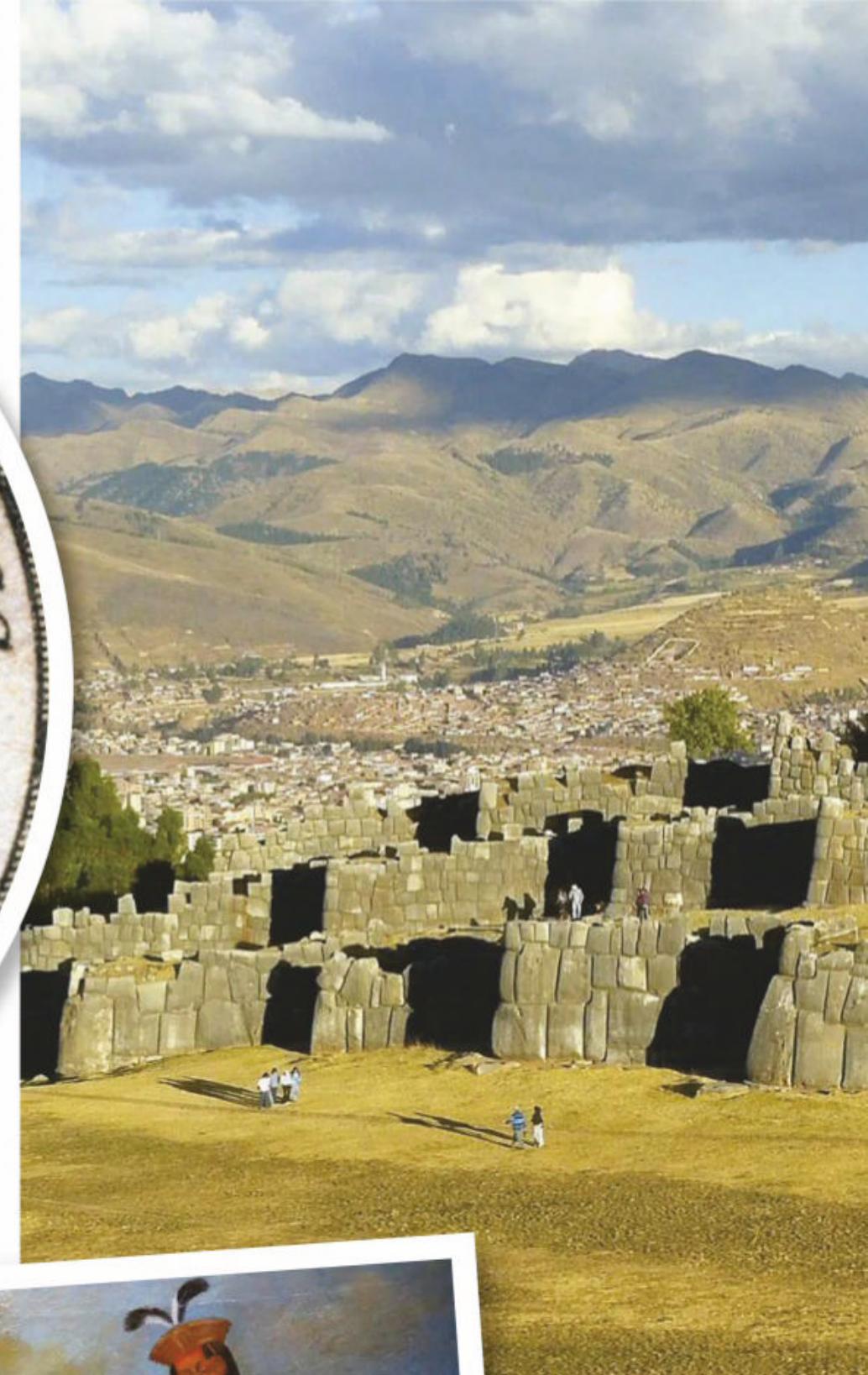
agriculture was one of the tenets of their worship of Inti, the Sun God – the deity who guided much of Inca life.

Only a century before Huayna Cápac's death, the Incas had been an inconsequential mountain tribe in possession of a limited amount of land. Over the intervening years, the empire had expanded rather rapidly, particularly under the rule of both his father and grandfather. To a large extent, the expansion hadn't been achieved through military might. Instead, Huayna Cápac sought to assimilate the region's various tribes. Cooperation and diplomacy were his main tools. And he was rather successful in deploying them too, earning the devout respect of much of the Inca population.

There had been many losses in the north of the empire, though, as the Sapa Inca tried to extend his lands still further. For 17 long years, Ecuadorian natives had fought against these incursions, stretching Inca resources and manpower to the limit. It was perhaps a sign that the empire was getting too great to handle.

ANARCHY REIGNS

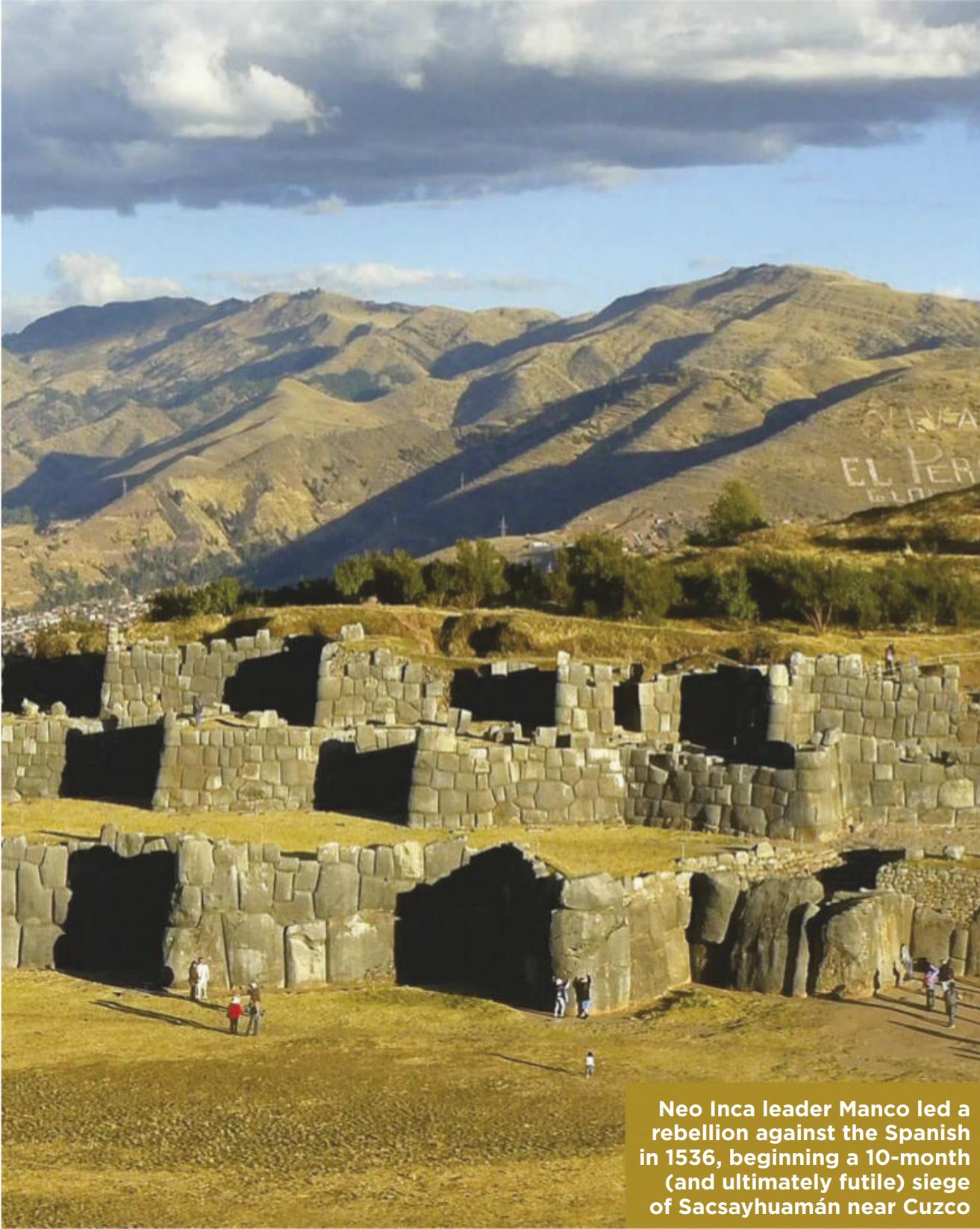
Huayna Cápac's death left a power vacuum. Primogeniture was not the established process; the firstborn didn't automatically ascend to the top job. The



Some Inca accounts say that Huáscar (above left) was crowned, but Atahualpa (above right) didn't attend – leading the new Sapa Inca to declare war on his half-brother

only conditions for succession were that the new leader be of royal blood and fit to rule. The previous ruler usually named his successor, or the position was filled by the most capable offspring, not necessarily the oldest.

This system almost invariably led to full-on power struggles, and this is what occurred after Huayna Cápac's demise. The constitutional crisis was only compounded by the fact that the



Neo Inca leader Manco led a rebellion against the Spanish in 1536, beginning a 10-month (and ultimately futile) siege of Sacsayhuamán near Cuzco

FINDING A SINGLE FIGURE THAT THE WHOLE AND VARIED POPULATION COULD FAITHFULLY SUPPORT WAS ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE

empire had grown so large that finding a single figure that the whole and varied population could faithfully support was now difficult to the point of impossible. As a result, some commentators believe that, on his deathbed, Huayna Cápac effectively split the empire in half by naming two successors.

Power wasn't to be shared, though. The struggle to be the next ruler of the entire empire led to a vicious civil war contested by two of Huayna Cápac's sons, half-brothers Huáscar and Atahualpa. Huáscar had the support of much of the empire, including the nobles in the capital, Cuzco. Atahualpa, however, had on his side the substantial and experienced armies that he and his father had been fighting alongside in the north.

That military experience would tell. After three long years of battles along the spine of the Andes, Atahualpa was gaining the upper hand. Huáscar's militia had tried to invade Quito, but were forced south back to the capital. When Atahualpa's soldiers massacred thousands of Huáscar's faithful supporters in Cuzco, the result seemed a formality. By 1532, the younger half-brother was seen as the undoubted successor. But he had little time to bask in the sunlight of his victory.

FOREIGN INFLUENCE

Huayna Cápac had still been alive when Spanish feet first touched Inca soil. Around 1527, notable conquistadors Francisco Pizarro and Diego de Almagro had landed at the Peruvian town of

Gods among us

Inca mythology and religion were tied to their understanding of the cosmos. The movement of the planets were crucial to the success of their agricultural systems, and the Milky Way and the Solar System were recurring themes of their stories and myths.

Accordingly, the various Inca gods were often valued in the context of the universe. The most famous of these was Inti, the Sun God, a benevolent deity alongside his sister Mama Killa, the Moon goddess. The Sapa Inca was considered to be the earthly manifestation of Inti, with ceremonies dedicated to the Sun undertaken to protect the wealth and welfare of the Sapa Inca. Eclipses were interpreted as a sign that these two particular gods were in distress. Sightings of comets were also regarded negatively.

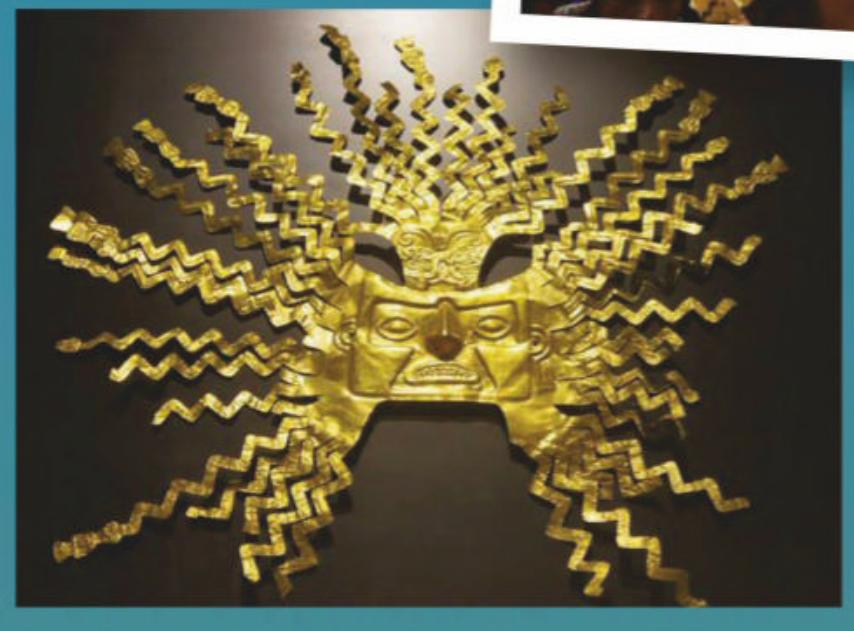
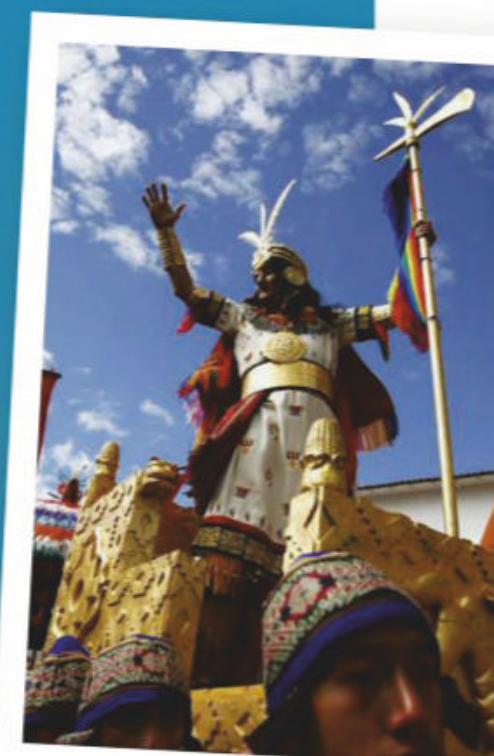
Each province was ordered by the Sapa Inca to devote a third of its land to Inti; each would also be home to a Temple of the Sun. So sacred were these temples that they could only be entered by a priest or the Sapa Inca himself. The rest of the population would worship nearby, often in a public square.

As the empire expanded, assimilating new peoples and cultures, Inca rulers permitted the observation of other religions, as long as Inca deities were regarded as superior. Sometimes there would be crossover between the gods worshipped; other times, these deities might be specific to particular regions that had been brought into the empire.

Initially impartial to Inca beliefs, the Spanish later declared them to be heretical. Certain aspects, such as polygamy, were incompatible with Christianity. Following the Spanish Conquest, Inca customs and culture came under fierce attack as the new masters sought to convert the continent to Catholicism.

RIGHT: The Inca ceremony of adoration to the Sun God is reenacted in Cuzco every year

BELOW: Golden Inca mask paying homage to Inti



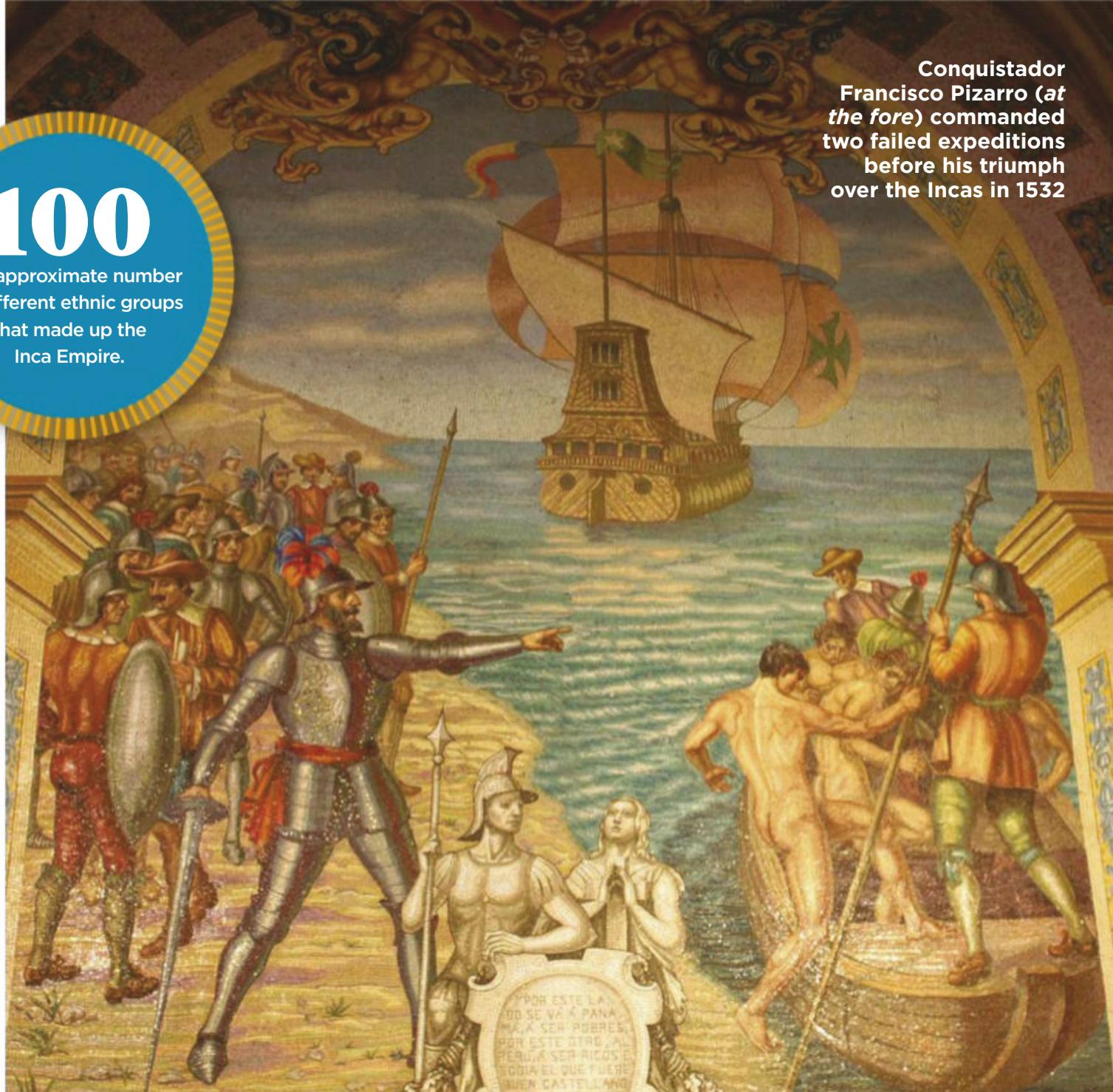
Tumbes. He had been informed about their presence, but was destined never to meet a European. He encountered the smallpox epidemic before he encountered the Spaniards.

The Spanish had been in full expansion mode for several decades. Since Christopher Columbus had established a settlement for the Spanish crown on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, a legion of conquistadors began a land grab in the Americas. Particularly successful was the overthrow of the Aztecs in Mexico by Hernán Cortés. The nature of that civilisation's removal would offer inspiration to Pizarro as he ventured further south.

In 1532, he made his third voyage to South America, this time emboldened by the licence issued by the queen of Spain to conquer Peru in the name of his homeland. His timing – landing very shortly after Atahualpa's victory over Huáscar – was accidental but immaculate. Had he arrived a year earlier, hopes of overpowering the ever-popular Huayna Cápac would have been slim. Had he landed a year later, the new regime under Atahualpa would have had time to make progress in unifying the disparate empire. As it was, Pizarro and his men encountered a land in disarray.

Pizarro's men numbered only in the region of 170 soldiers, a modest force with which to undermine and conquer a huge, sprawling empire. Aside from their diminutive number, outwardly they didn't look the most dynamic army either, appearing battle-weary after campaigns in the Caribbean. But these were among Spain's foremost soldiers,

100
The approximate number of different ethnic groups that made up the Inca Empire.



Conquistador
Francisco Pizarro (at the fore) commanded two failed expeditions before his triumph over the Incas in 1532

PIZARRO'S MEN WERE ONLY IN THE REGION OF 170, A MODEST FORCE WITH WHICH TO UNDERMINE AN EMPIRE

Tied up in knots

Without a formal alphabet, the Incas used a system called *quipu* to share information and keep records. A *quipu* was a knot-record – a horizontal string (or, occasionally, a wooden bar) from which knotted strings of various colours would hang. The more sophisticated examples might contain more than a thousand strings. The colours would denote particular messages or meanings, as would the different kinds of knots. Their purpose was to maintain numerical records, such as census data, or to preserve stories and poems for future generations.

Atahualpa sought to extinguish those records that documented the rule of his bitter rival (and half-brother) Huáscar. During the Spanish Conquest, more *quipu* were destroyed, such was the invaders' fear of the information contained within.

Quipu has been partially retained in the Andes; for instance, shepherds still use the system to keep track of their flocks.

The strings were used to record censuses, tax data, even military formations



a unit under the command of one of its sharpest minds.

The effects of the bitter civil war were conspicuous. One of Pizarro's generals, Hernando de Soto, reported the town of Cajas to be "in considerable ruins from the fighting that Atahualpa had waged.

In the hills were the bodies of many Indians hanging from trees because they had not agreed to surrender".

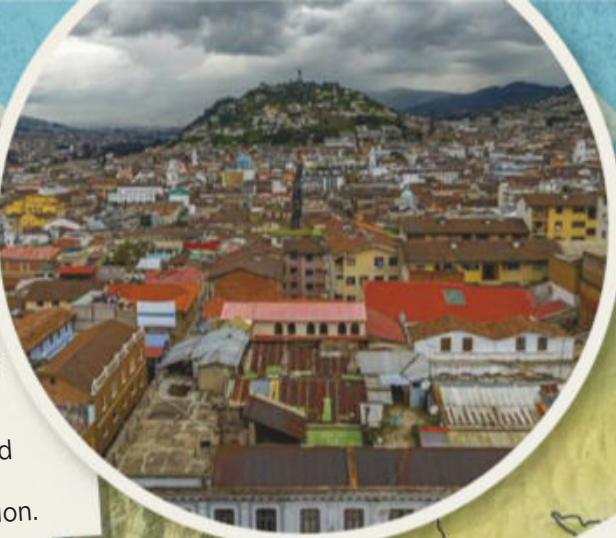
As well as being a formidable military commander, Pizarro also possessed a key political brain. He understood how a divided population could be taken advantage of. His compatriot Cortés had manipulated rival groups in Mexico a dozen years earlier. Pizarro firmly believed that history could repeat itself here in the Andes.

CULTURE CLASH

At first, Atahualpa regarded the presence of these 170 strangers with mild curiosity at best. Such a small force couldn't be regarded as a remotely serious threat. He did, though, send an envoy to investigate and observe these mysterious interlopers. This envoy, an Inca noble,

QUITO

The future capital of Ecuador, this high-altitude city was founded in 1534 by conquistador Sebastián de Belalcázar after his men had encountered notable indigenous resistance in the region.



TUMBES

Francisco Pizarro, the leader of the Spanish Conquest, set foot on South American soil in this riverside Peruvian town around 1527. When he landed here again in 1532, Pizarro was in the company of the elite troops who would overthrow the Incas.



ECUADOR

COLOMBIA

BRAZIL

VILCABAMBA

The remote location of the small Neo Inca state set up by Atahualpa's successor Manco Inca.

CAJAMARCA

The key location in the story of Atahualpa's fall and the rise of Spanish rule. It was here in 1532 that the Inca ruler was ambushed, imprisoned and ultimately executed by Pizarro's conquistadors.

PERU

BOLIVIA

PARAGUAY

CHILE

PARIA

The administrative centre for Quilasuyu province, and thus crucial for the Incas' southward advances, Paria was the first Spanish settlement in what would later become Bolivia.



OLLANTAYTAMBO

Situated in the Sacred Valley, this was a temporary base for Manco Inca around 1536, before he ventured north to found Vilcabamba. At Ollantaytambo, he led resistance to the expansionist Spanish.

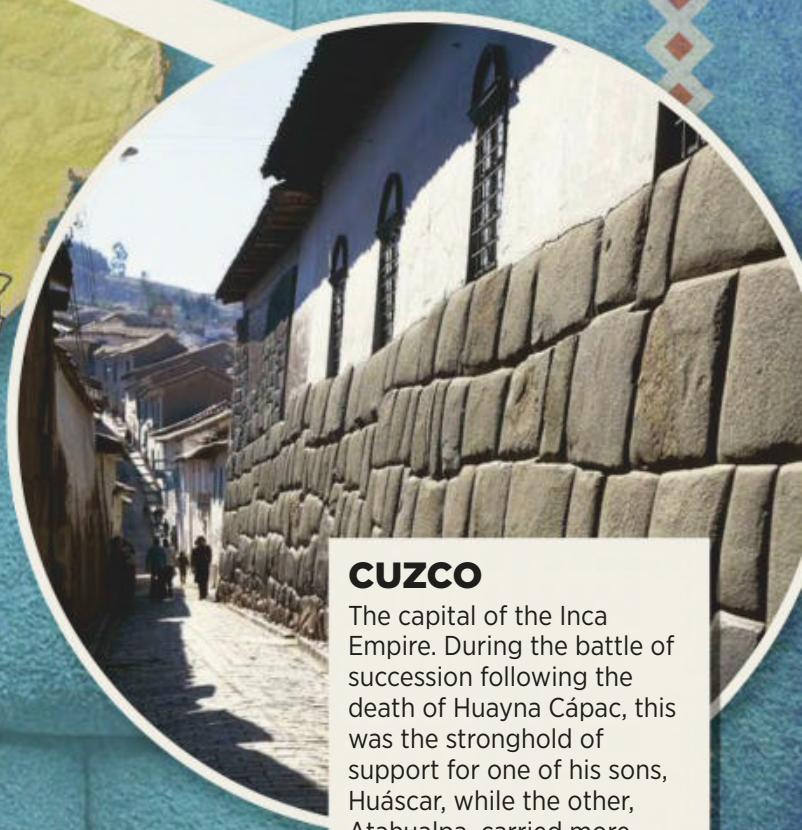
PISAC

The ruins of Inca Pisac lie at what would have been a key strategic point, one that linked the empire with the rainforests of the interior. Inca Pisac was destroyed by Pizarro's troops in the early 1530s.



URUGUAY

ARGENTINA



CUZCO

The capital of the Inca Empire. During the battle of succession following the death of Huayna Cápac, this was the stronghold of support for one of his sons, Huáscar, while the other, Atahualpa, carried more influence in the north.

THE INCA EMPIRE

1438-1525



SANTIAGO

Previously a base for the Inca expansion of the southern tip of the empire, the future capital of Chile was founded by Spanish conquistador Pedro de Valdivia in 1541.



spent two days among the Spaniards, examining their horses and their swords, and confirming the size of this ragged band.

His report didn't unduly worry Atahualpa, who allowed the Spaniards to head away from the coast and into the mountains. Not everyone in Atahualpa's camp was in agreement with this policy. During lengthy discussions about it at council, some members expressed a preference to attack the invaders at once, to neutralise the threat straight away. Instead, they were permitted to head towards the town of Cajamarca, where they might be later seized.

Unbeknownst to Atahualpa – who, until then, believed himself to be the ruler of the known world – these strangers represented the vanguard of the Spanish empire. They were deeply experienced soldiers scything their way through the metaphorical undergrowth to clear a path for control and colonisation, as well as grabbing as much gold for the Spanish crown as possible.

By Friday 15 November 1532, Pizarro and his men descended into the town of Cajamarca. They made the main square their base, settling in a series of barns, or

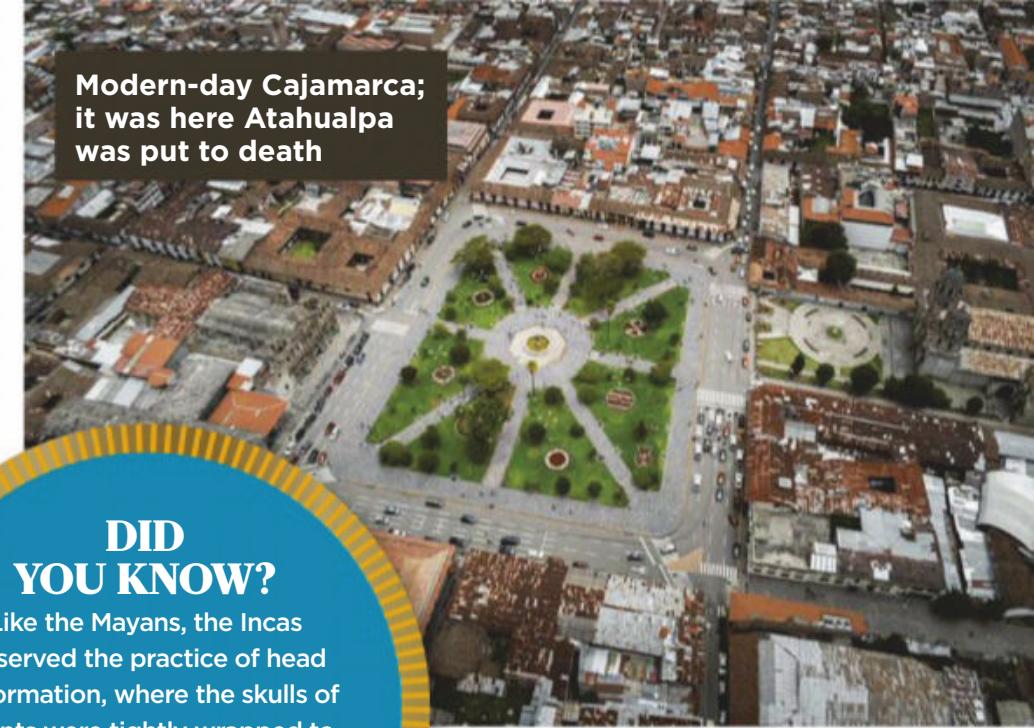
kallankas, around the perimeter. These kallankas were long buildings with multiple doors that led onto the square, and usually housed visitors who'd come to Cajamarca for ceremonies or festivals. They were also used for sheltering soldiers. Pizarro was merely upholding the tradition.

CAMP INTRIGUES

Pizarro sent de Soto and around 15 horsemen to visit Atahualpa, whose camp was now comparatively nearby. His instruction was to invite the Sapa Inca to visit Pizarro down in the town. When the cautious de Soto rode into the camp, his passage was silently observed by the massed ranks of the Inca army. When he reached Atahualpa, surrounded by all his women and many chiefs, the invitation fell on deaf ears. There was no reaction. It was only when another of Pizarro's generals – his brother Hernando – stepped forward that Atahualpa engaged with the Spanish party.

He invited them to dismount their horses and dine with him. They declined. He offered a drink instead.

Modern-day Cajamarca; it was here Atahualpa was put to death



DID YOU KNOW?

Like the Mayans, the Incas observed the practice of head deformation, where the skulls of infants were tightly wrapped to reshape the skull. It's believed this was undertaken to denote social status or group affiliation.

They feared being poisoned, but Atahualpa imbibed too, while assuring them that he would travel to Cajamarca the following day to meet with Pizarro.

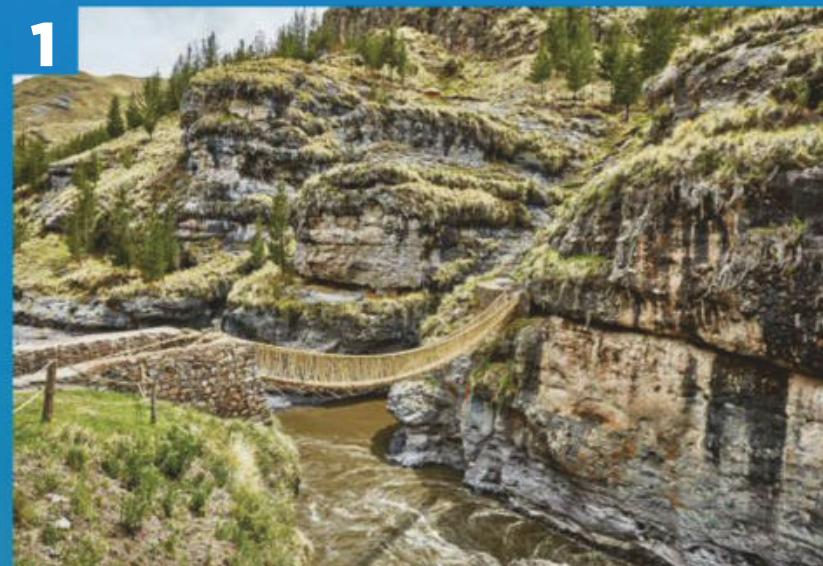
If de Soto had been nervous when visiting Atahualpa's camp, the entire brigade was jittering that night. Sleep came fitfully, if at all. One of the conquistadors, Cristóbal de Mena, later reported that "there was no distinction between great and small, or between foot-soldiers and horsemen. Everyone performed sentry rounds fully armed that night. So also did the good old Governor, who went about encouraging the men. On that day, all were knights."

Master builders

The Incas continue to be revered for their buildings. A popular method of construction was that of 'pillow-faced' architecture, where sanded and shaped stones would interlock without need for mortar. This technique was often adopted for temples and palaces – structures that were to last for centuries, if not in perpetuity. The royal estate of Machu Picchu boasts arguably the finest examples of the method, the durability of which was required in such a seismically sensitive landscape. These earthquake-proof buildings were built to last.

Innovative Inca engineering was also demonstrated with the construction of a 40,000km road network. Based on a north-south main road off which other roads branched, it attempted to link up this long, stretched-out empire.

1. Inca rope bridge at Quehue
2. Many roads connected the sprawling empire
3. Inca stonemasons were skilled at cutting stone so they slotted together without needing mortar





Atahualpa met Pizarro while still basking in his triumph over Huáscar. He did not consider the Spaniard's tiny band could pose any threat

The nerves were understandable. This was a sticky situation. "The Spaniards now realised, for the first time, the sophistication of the empire they had penetrated," wrote Inca historian John Hemming. "They found themselves isolated from the sea by days of marching over difficult mountains. They were in the midst of a victorious army in full battle order, which Soto and Hernando Pizarro estimated at 40,000 effectives." The two generals had been economical with the truth; they actually believed the Inca army to be double that size. "They had no reason to hope for a friendly reception of any long duration."

BEHAEDING THE EMPIRE

The Spaniards might have been edgy and possibly desperate, but they did have plans, tactics that had previously enjoyed success during Spain's incursions in the Caribbean. One option was simply to attack the Incas from the off, to not wait for any provocation. Another option involved kidnapping Atahualpa; imprisoning the head of state had proved an effective exercise in Mexico.

The next morning, Atahualpa was in no rush to make his audience with the Spanish. It was a comparatively short distance to the town from the plain on which he was camped, but no move was made before lunchtime.

LEAVING MOST OF HIS ARMED SOLDIERS BEHIND, ATAHUALPA WAS CARRIED INTO CAJAMARCA

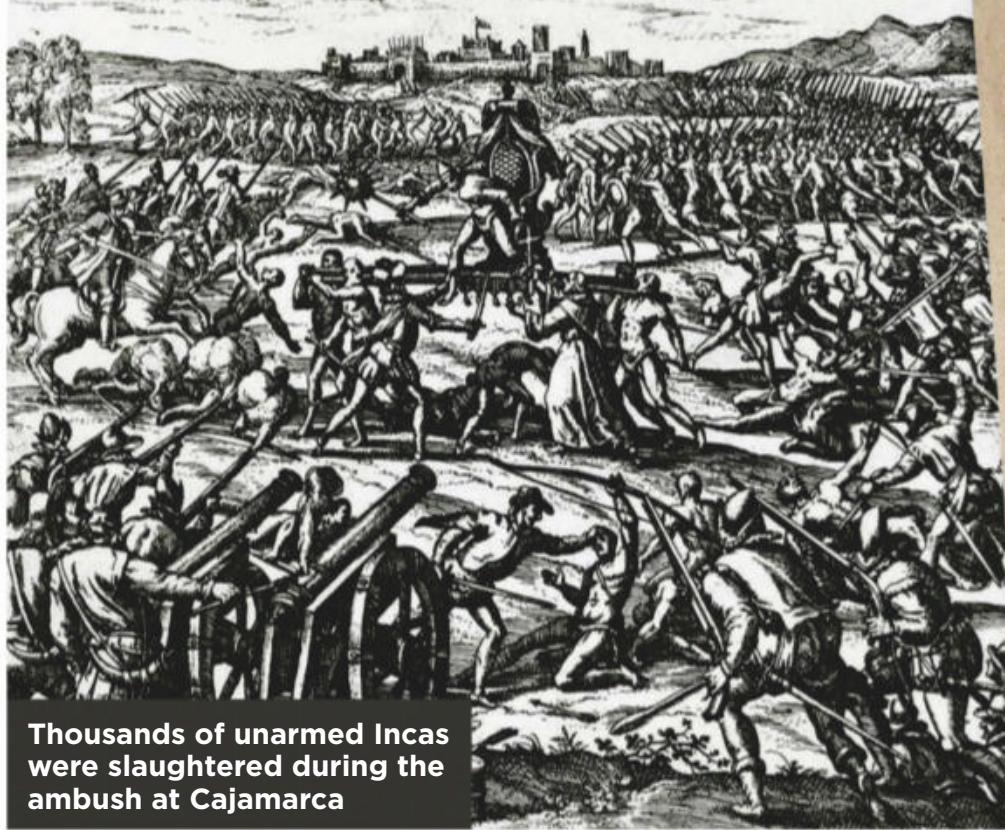
By late afternoon, with the Sun low in the sky, he was still half a mile from the square and chose to make camp instead. The Spaniards grew even more anxious. Fearing an attack under cover of darkness, Pizarro despatched a messenger to urge Atahualpa to attend, issuing a promise that no harm would come to him. He agreed.

Leaving most of his armed soldiers on the plain, Atahualpa, dressed in his finery, was carried into Cajamarca, accompanied by around 5,000 men, who were largely unarmed, save for small battleaxes and slings. Arriving in the square, not a Spaniard was to be seen. The first to break cover was Friar Vincente de Valverde. Aided by a translator, he began to tell Atahualpa about how he'd been sent to introduce his religion to the Sapa Inca. What Valverde was actually doing was delivering the *Requerimiento*, a declaration required by Spain's

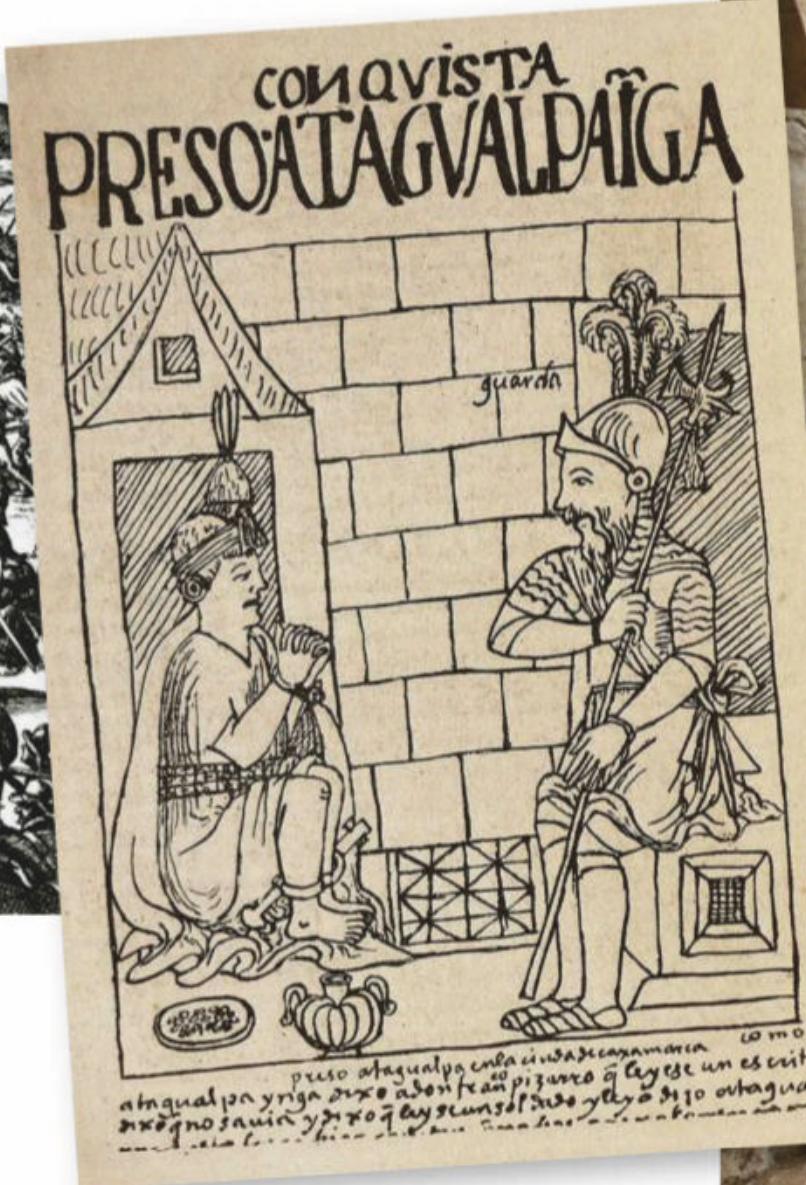
The nature of time

In the Western world, time is a linear concept, where the past, the present and the future exist one after the other. We live in the present, while the past can't be revisited and the future has yet to reveal itself. The Incas treated time much differently, seeing all three as occurring simultaneously, running in parallel.

Rather than occupying a line, the Incas saw the three realms – or *pacha* – stacked on top of each other. The *hanan pacha* was the upper realm, which represented the heavens and the future. The *kay pacha* was the physical world currently occupied, one that could be impacted by what was above or below it. At the bottom was the *ukhupacha*, representing the inner world – what had already been experienced internally. In direct contrast to the Western perception of time, the *hanan pacha* and the *ukhupacha* – the future and the past – were able to impact on and affect what was happening in the present.



Thousands of unarmed Incas were slaughtered during the ambush at Cajamarca



Atahualpa's ransom room; the Sapa Inca promised to fill it with gold (and fill another two with silver) in a bid to earn freedom

◀ Royal Council before any conflict involving bloodshed.

When Atahualpa examined a Bible that Valverde had handed him and then threw it to the ground, the priest ran back towards the particular kallanka where Pizarro was waiting. "Come out! Come out, Christians!" he yelled. "Come at these enemy dogs who reject the things of God."

On Pizarro's signal, the doors to all the kallankas were thrust open and the square fired on by cannon. Sixty or so Spanish soldiers charged on horseback at the defenceless Incas, many of whom fled on their heels. It took just two hours for the Governor's small brigade to vanquish Atahualpa himself. Atahualpa himself later admitted he lost 7,000 soldiers that afternoon. Not a single Spaniard died.

Atahualpa was able to make this admission because Pizarro had spared him his life, following through with

the kidnap plan. He was hustled away to the Temple of the Sun on the town's outskirts, whereupon he was dressed in local clothing and, remarkably, had a bed made up for him in Pizarro's own quarters. Atahualpa was shell-shocked by the experience. The intelligence he had received – that the Spanish were ill-prepared and far from studious in their ways – hadn't been correct.

Pizarro is said to have ridden through the chaos himself to pluck Atahualpa from harm's way

As John Hemming observed, Atahualpa "could not conceive that, with the odds so completely in his favour, the Spaniards would be the first to attack. Nor could he imagine that an attack would come without warning or provocation, before he had even held his meeting with Governor Pizarro." He wasn't the only surprised individual that evening. The Spanish were equally gobsmacked that their half-baked, potentially fatal plan had worked.

BRAVE NEW WORLD

Despite his captivity, Atahualpa remained sharp of mind. The following

THE SPANISH WERE GOBSMACKED THAT THEIR HALF-BAKED PLAN HAD WORKED

The Spanish conquests

Prior to Francisco Pizarro's successful removal of Atahualpa in 1532, the Spanish had already made substantial territorial gains in the Americas. Sailing under the flag of Spain, the Italian explorer Christopher Columbus had, in the late 15th century, founded a settlement in present-day Haiti, while the first permanent Spanish settlement on mainland South America was established in 1515 in what is now Venezuela.

Between 1519 and 1521, Hernán Cortés led the conquest of the Aztec empire. The swift control that Cortés exerted over Mexico would, in many ways, act as the blueprint for the overthrow of the Incas. Following Cortés's efficient removal of the Aztecs

from power, one of his most trusted men, Pedro de Alvarado, subsequently led the conquest of much of Central America, including Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. This he achieved by means that were often brutal.

A few years after Atahualpa's death and the securing of Inca lands for the Spanish empire, the conquest moved into the territory north of the Andes, into present-day Colombia and Venezuela. There was also a push to colonise down to the southern tip of the continent, in the process assimilating the lands that now constitute Argentina and Paraguay.



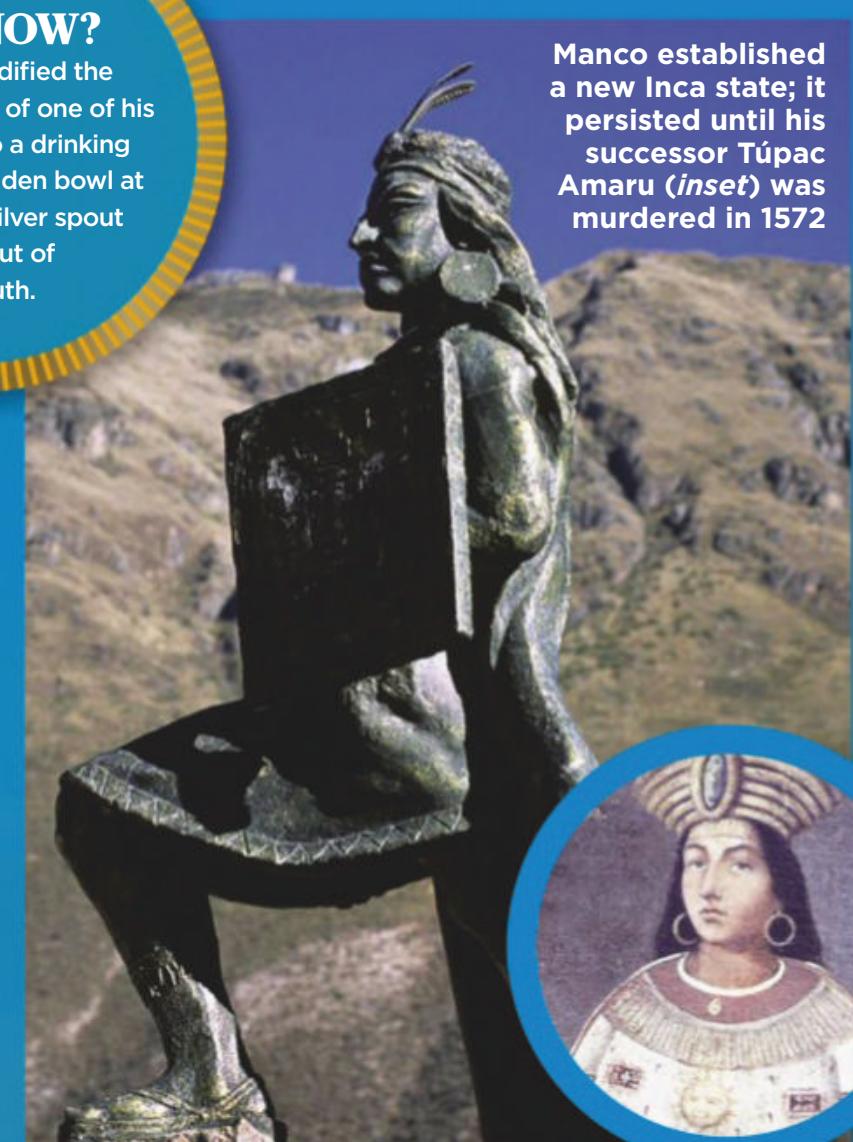
Hernán Cortés was an inspiration to Pizarro; his conquest of Tenochtitlán brought about the end of the Aztec Empire



DID YOU KNOW?

Atahualpa modified the decapitated head of one of his rivals, Atoc, into a drinking vessel, with a golden bowl at the top and a silver spout coming out of the mouth.

Wealth for the ransom poured in from across the empire in the form of statues, jewels and relics made of precious metals



Manco established a new Inca state; it persisted until his successor Túpac Amaru (inset) was murdered in 1572

After Atahualpa

Following Atahualpa's trial and execution in late July of 1533, the Spanish installed another son of Huayna Cápac, Manco Inca Yupanqui, as Sapa Inca. Initially, he was something of a puppet, acquiescing to the conquistadors' motives and methods. When Diego de Almagro, the Spaniard who had accompanied Francisco Pizarro on his first visit to South America, tried to claim Cuzco for himself, Manco seized the chance to advance the Inca cause by taking advantage of the in-fighting among the conquistadors. He captured Cuzco in 1536, before the Spanish regrouped and re-exerted their control of the city.

Retreating to the mountains, Manco set up a small Inca state, which he and his successors ruled for more than three decades. When Manco's son Túpac Amaru was executed by the Spanish in 1572, the final Inca stronghold was extinguished.

That the Spanish had been able to conquer the vast and sophisticated Inca Empire was partly due to the smallpox epidemic that spread viciously across the domain. The irony was that one of the Incas' lasting achievements – the extensive road network, much of which still exists – provided the conditions for the easy transportation of the disease. The Spanish also had a definite military advantage, which saw them make rapid advances across the entire Inca Empire. Not only was their weaponry more sophisticated and more brutal, but their use of horses overwhelmed the native population. The historian Jago Cooper has referred to the animals as "the tanks of the Conquest".

day, the Spaniards raided his camp, where his soldiers meekly surrendered on his say-so. The conquistadors returned to Cajamarca with plentiful treasure and Atahualpa noted how this appeared to be their primary focus. He could see an escape route and made them an offer: he would give them a room filled with gold, and two more with silver, in return for his life.

It was an attractive ransom, but one that would take a few months to fulfil, for the precious metals to be gathered from across the empire, including being liberated from places of worship. During this time of captivity, Atahualpa remained Sapa Inca, but the orders he issued to his people were made in the context of being held hostage. One bad order and his life was over. The Spaniards were effectively becoming legitimised in the eyes of the Inca people via their incarcerated leader. Pizarro's decision to take Atahualpa alive was thoroughly vindicated.

Atahualpa was looking forward to enjoying his empire once the ransom was met, his release confirmed, and these gold-diggers had left his lands.

He even secretly ordered the killing of the captive Huáscar by one of his half-brother's escorts to ensure his future rule be as smooth as possible. But the Spanish double-crossed him again.

Pizarro was concerned that, were Atahualpa to be released, there was no guarantee that he and his men would get out alive. After all, there were many mountains between Cajamarca and the Pacific Ocean to negotiate. So the decision was made to execute Atahualpa. After the most perfunctory of trials (one of the charges was the murder of Huáscar), he was found guilty and condemned to be burned at the stake.

Accepting his fate, Atahualpa made one last deal. As the Inca belief was that the next life could only be reached if the body was intact, he proposed converting to Christianity in return for not being burned alive. He was garrotted instead, but not before Valverde had baptised him.

Moments before his execution, Atahualpa was given the Christian name of Francisco, the same as that of his great adversary, Pizarro – the man who ended Inca rule and changed the destiny of South America forever. ◎

Writing – A Job with All Sorts of Opportunities for All Kinds of People

by Phil Busby

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"My tutor was lovely, encouraging and offered me great constructive criticism."

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Louise Kennedy



Jacqueline Jaynes



Martin Read

activities were invaluable for opening up potential new avenues for publication."

Those new avenues led to a travel website where Jacqueline started writing short articles. Soon she was asked to join the team, and now she and her husband get expenses paid trips all over the world in exchange for reviews!

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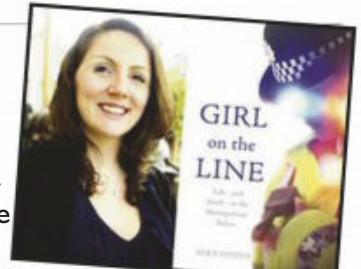
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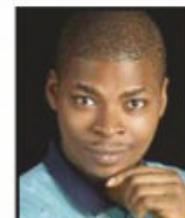
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A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

The origins of the Bible are still cloaked in mystery. When was it written? Who wrote it? And how reliable is it as an historical record? **Spencer Day** charts the evolution of arguably the most influential book of all time





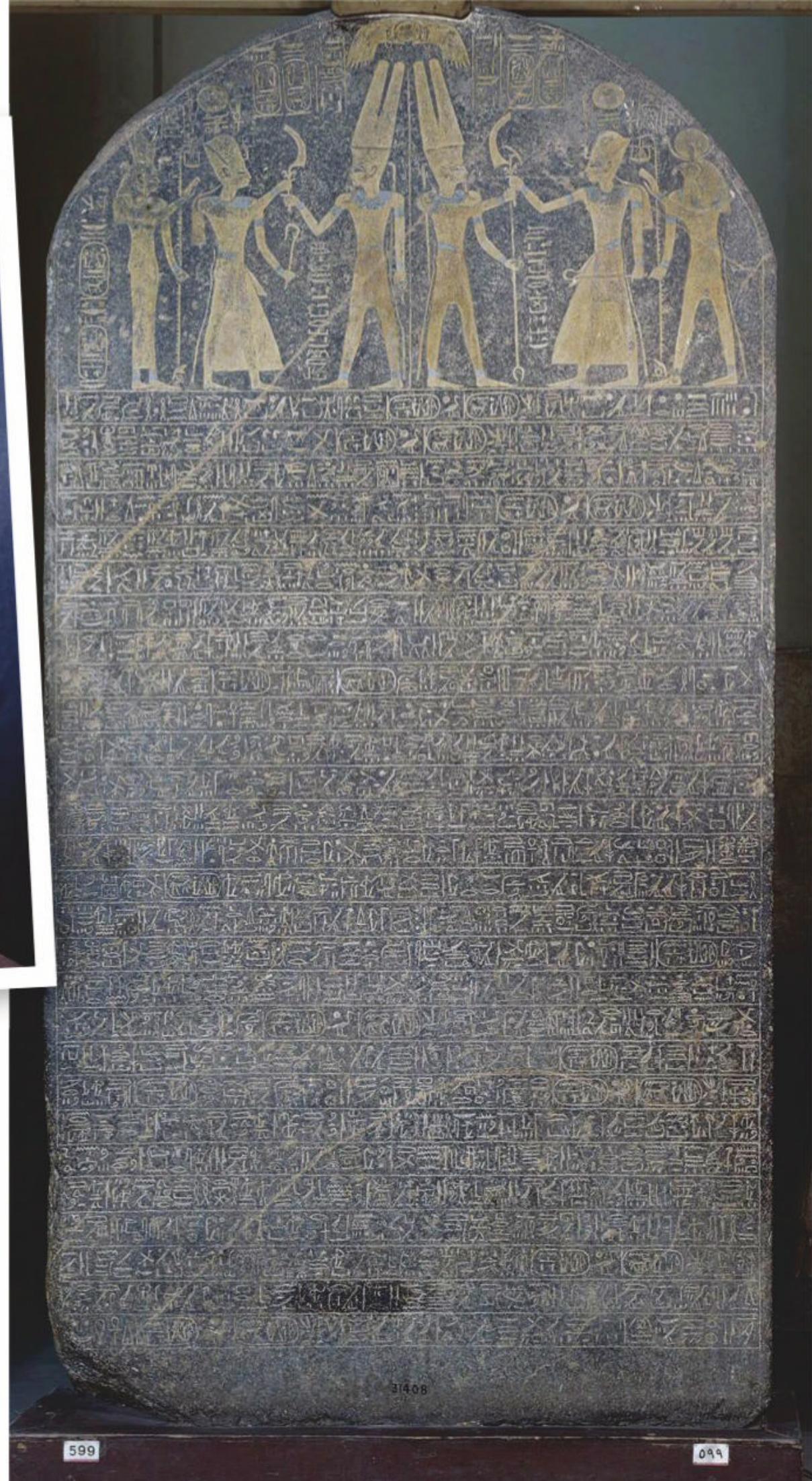
ABOVE: Despite his advanced years, Merneptah claimed crucial military victories in his ten-year reign as pharaoh of Egypt

RIGHT:
Merneptah chose to immortalise his achievements in granite – the Merneptah Stele, discovered at Thebes in 1896

Like all good autocrats, Merneptah, pharaoh of Egypt, loved to brag about his achievements. And when he led his armies on a successful war of conquest at the end of the 13th century BC, he wanted the world, and successive generations, to know all about it.

The medium on which the pharaoh chose to trumpet his martial prowess was a three-metre-high lump of carved granite, now known as the Merneptah Stele. The stele, which was discovered at the site of the ancient Egyptian city of Thebes in 1896, contains 28 lines of text, mostly detailing the Egyptians' victory over the Libyans and their allies. But it is the final three lines of the inscription that has arguably excited most interest among historians.

"Israel has been shorn," it declares. "Its seed no longer exists." These few words constitute the first known written reference to the Israelites. It's an inauspicious start, one that boasts of this people's near destruction at the hands of one of the ancient world's superpowers in their homeland of Canaan. But the Israelites would survive. And the story they would go on to tell about themselves and their relationship with their God would arguably eclipse



any of Merneptah's achievements. It would spawn what is surely the most influential book of all time: the Bible.

In 2007, *Time* magazine asserted that the Bible "has done more to shape literature, history, entertainment and culture than any book ever written". It's a bold claim, but one that's hard to refute. What other book resides on bedside tables in countless hotel rooms across the globe? What other book has bequeathed the world such instantly recognisable catchphrases as "an eye for an eye", "thou shalt not kill" and "eat, drink and be merry"?

Factor in the number of copies that have been sold down the centuries – somewhere in the region of five billion to date, swollen by a further 100 million every year given away for free – and there's no denying that the Bible's influence on Western civilisation has been monumental.

But if the Bible's standing as a cultural behemoth is beyond doubt, its history is anything but. For centuries, some of the world's greatest thinkers have puzzled over the origins and evolution of this remarkable document. Who wrote it? When? And why?

These are the thorniest of questions, made all the more tangled by the Bible's great age, and the fact that some, or all of it, has become a sacred text for members of two of the world's great religions – Judaism and Christianity – numbering more than two billion people.

DIGGING IN THE DUST

But despite these obstacles, archaeology and the study of written sources have shed light on the history of both halves of the Bible: the Old Testament, the story of the Jews' highs and lows in the millennium or so before the birth of Jesus; and the New Testament, which documents the life and teachings of Jesus. These findings may be incomplete and they may be highly contested, but they have helped historians paint a picture of how the Bible came to life.

Perhaps the best place to start the story is in Sun-baked northern Egypt, for it was here that the Bible and archaeology may, just may, first collide.

For centuries, the Old Testament has been widely interpreted as a story of disaster and rescue – of the Israelites falling from grace before picking themselves up, dusting themselves down and finding redemption. Nowhere is this theme more evident than in Exodus, the dramatic second book of the Old Testament, which chronicles the Israelites' escape from captivity in Egypt to the promised land.

But has archaeology unearthed one of the sites of the Israelites' captivity? That's the question that some historians have been asking themselves since the 1960s, when the Austrian archaeologist Manfred Bietak identified the location of the ancient city of Pi-Ramesses at the site of the modern town of Qantir in Egypt's Nile Delta. Pi-Ramesses was the great capital built by Ramesses II, one of Egypt's most formidable pharaohs and the biblical tormentor of the Israelites. It's been argued that Pi-Ramesses was the biblical city of Ramesses, and that the city was built, as Exodus claims, by Jewish slaves.

It's an intriguing theory, and one that certainly has its doubters. But if it were true, it would place the enslaved Israelites in the Nile Delta in the decades after 1279 BC, when Ramesses II became king.

So what happened next? The Bible is in little doubt. It tells us that Moses led the Israelites out of their captivity in Egypt (whose population had been laid low by ten plagues inflicted on them by God) before Joshua spearheaded a brilliant invasion of Canaan, the promised land. The

historical sources, however, are far less forthcoming. As John Barton, former professor of the interpretation of holy scriptures at the University of Oxford, puts it: "There is no evidence of a great invasion by the Israelites under Joshua; the population doesn't seem to have changed much in that period as far as we can tell by archaeological surveys."

In fact, the best corroborating evidence for the Bible's claim that the Israelites surged into Canaan is Merneptah's Stele. It may describe more Jewish pain at the hands of their perennial Egyptian persecutors, but it at least suggests that they may have been in Canaan during Merneptah's reign (1213–1203 BC).

If the early history of the Israelites is uncertain, so is the evolution of the book that would tell their story. Until the 17th century, received opinion had it that the first five books of the Bible – Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy – were the work of one author: Moses. That theory has since been seriously challenged.

“Scholars believe the stories were disseminated by word of mouth”

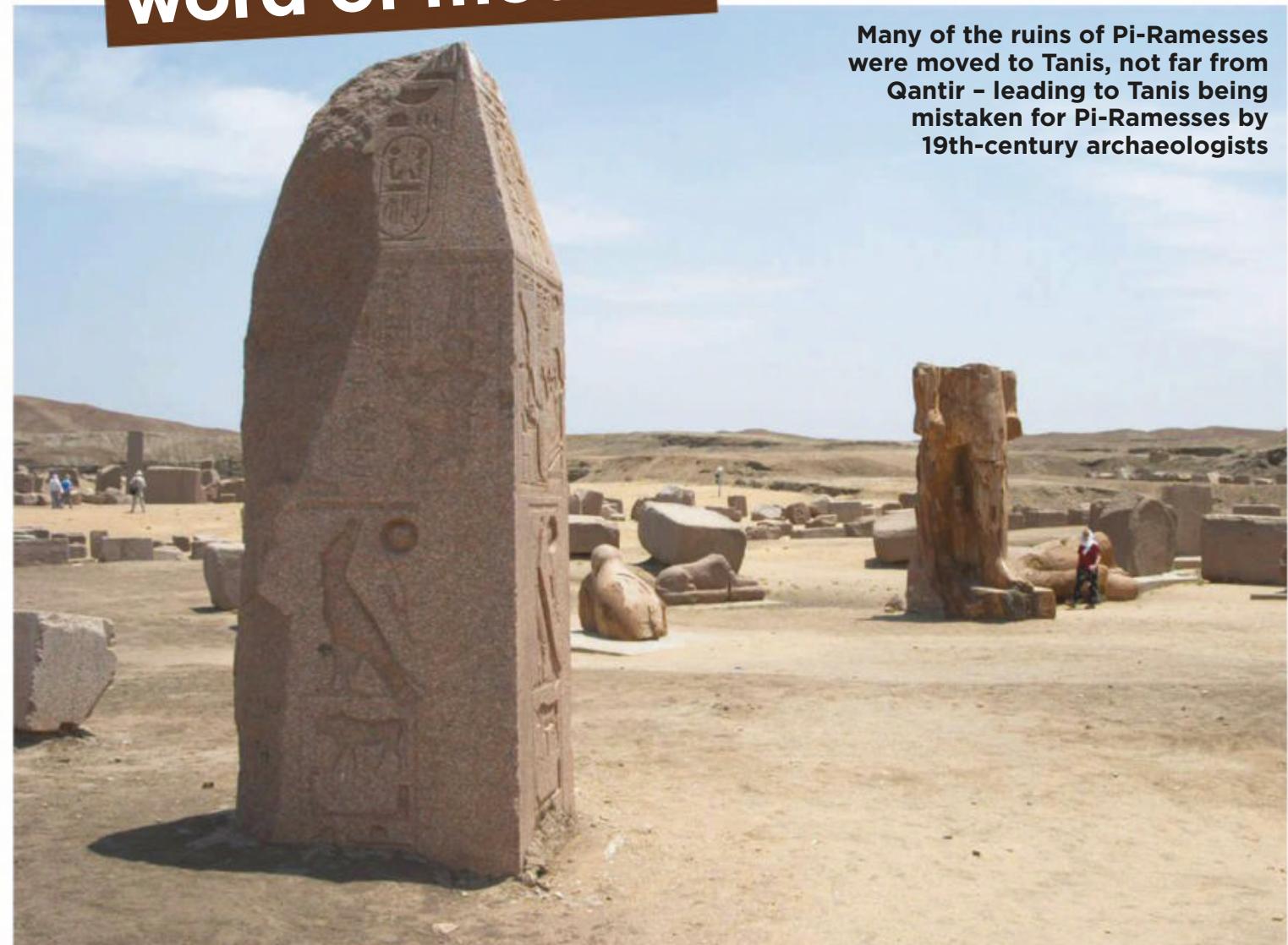


The formidable Ramesses II holds a prisoner by the hair

Scholars now believe that the stories that would become the Bible were disseminated by word of mouth across the centuries, in the form of oral tales and poetry – perhaps as a means of forging a collective identity among the tribes of Israel. Eventually, these stories were collated and written down. The question is by whom, and when?

A clue may lie in a limestone boulder discovered embedded in a stone wall in the town of Tel Zayit, 35 miles southwest of Jerusalem, in 2005. The boulder, now known as the Zayit Stone, contains what many historians believe to be the earliest >

Many of the ruins of Pi-Ramesses were moved to Tanis, not far from Qantir – leading to Tanis being mistaken for Pi-Ramesses by 19th-century archaeologists





full Hebrew alphabet ever discovered, dating to around 1000 BC. "What was found was not a random scratching of two or three letters, it was the full alphabet," P Kyle McCarter of Johns Hopkins University in Maryland has said of the stone. "Everything about it says this is the ancestor of the Hebrew script."

The Zayit Stone does not in itself tell us when the Bible was written and collated, but it gives us our first glimpse of the language that produced it. And, by tracking the stylistic development of that language down the centuries, and cross-referencing it with biblical text, historians have been able to rule out the single-author hypotheses, concluding instead that it was written by waves of scribes during the first millennium BC.

UBIQUITOUS DAVID

The first wave of scribes may, it's been suggested, have started work during the reign of King David (c1000 BC). Whether that's true or not, David is a monumental figure in the biblical story – the slayer of Goliath, the conqueror of Jerusalem. David is also a hugely important figure in the quest to establish links between the Bible and historical fact, for he appears to be the earliest biblical figure to be confirmed by archaeology.

"I killed [the] king of the house of David." So boasts the Tel Dan Stele, an inscribed stone dating from 870–750 BC and discovered in northern Israel in the 1990s. Like the Merneptah Stele before it, it documents a warlord's victory over the Israelites (the man doing the gloating was probably the local ruler Hazael of Aram-Damascus). But it at least indicates that David was a historical figure.

The Tel Dan Stele also suggests that, no matter how capable their rulers, the people of Israel continued to be menaced by powerful, belligerent neighbours. And, in 586 BC, one of those neighbours, the Babylonians, would inflict on the Jews one of the most devastating defeats in their history: ransacking the sacred

city of Jerusalem, butchering its residents, and dragging many more back to Babylonia.

For the people of Israel, the fall of Jerusalem was a searing experience. It created, in the words of Eric M Meyers, a biblical scholar at Duke University in North Carolina, "one of the most significant theological crises in the history of the Jewish people".

And, according to many scholars, that crisis may have had a transformative impact on the writing of the Bible. The Old Testament is far more than a formulaic story of a nation's evolution, it's also a chronicle of that nation's relationship with its God. Did the sack of Jerusalem in 586 BC convince a new wave of Jewish thinkers that they hadn't been keeping their side of the bargain? Did it spur them into revisiting all previous editions of the Jewish scriptures in order to sharpen the emphasis on the agreement or 'covenant'



between the people and their one God?

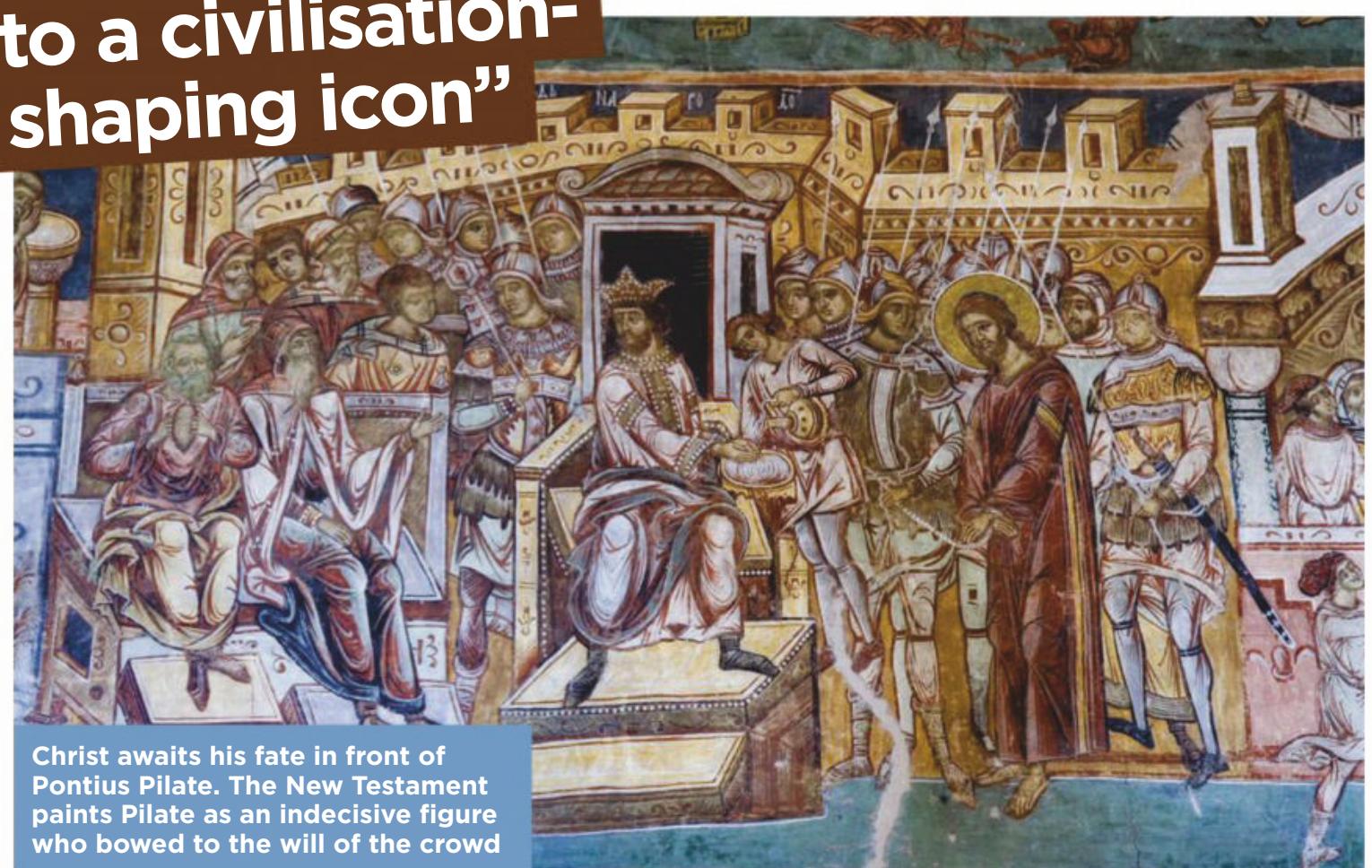
GLOBAL APPEAL

Whether this theory holds or not, there's little doubt that by the time they returned from their Babylonian exile, the Bible occupied a unique place in the consciousness of the Jewish people. However, it would be centuries before the book would be revered as a secret text for non-Jews. And the reason for that transformation from national to international significance was, of course, the figure of Jesus Christ. It's the so-called New Testament, the account of Jesus's life and teachings, that turned

the Hebrew Bible into a civilisation-shaping, global icon.

Most scholars agree that Jesus, a first-century religious leader and preacher, existed historically. He

"Jesus's life turned the book into a civilisation-shaping icon"



COVER VERSIONS

Different editions of the Bible have appeared over the centuries, aiming to further popularise the stories and teachings within. Here are three of the most notable versions

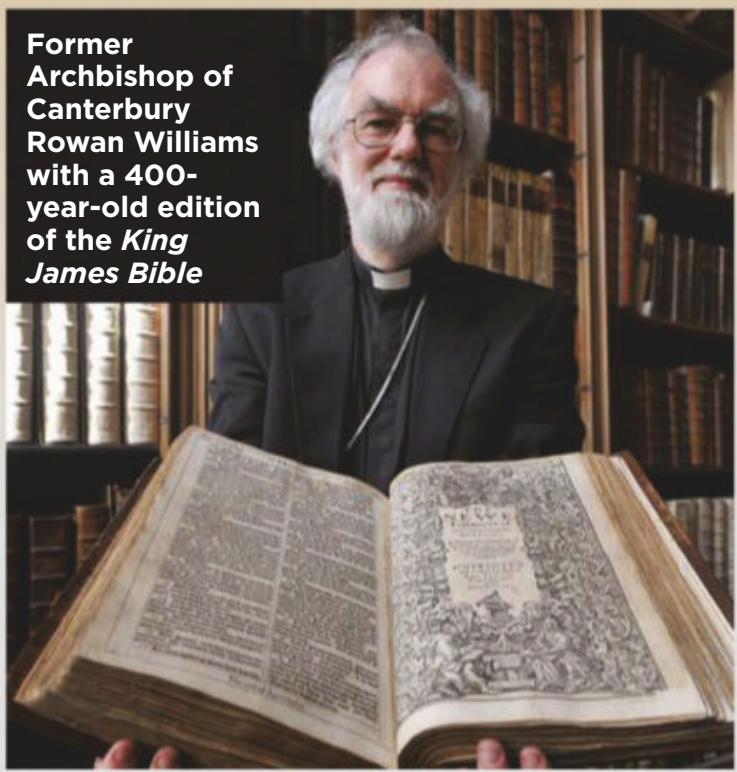
King James Bible

On 24 March 1603, King James VI of Scotland was also crowned King James I of England and Ireland. His reign would usher in a new royal dynasty (the Stuarts) and a new era of colonialism (most especially in North America). But arguably every bit as significant was his decision, in 1611, to introduce a new Bible.

The 'King James Version' (KJV) wasn't the first to be printed in English – Henry VIII had authorised the 'Great Bible' in 1539 and the *Bishops' Bible* had been printed during the reign of Elizabeth I in 1568 – but, in terms of impact, the KJV would dwarf its successors.

Shortly after his coronation, James was told that existing translations of the Bible were "corrupt and not answerable to the truth of the original". What his scholars produced was a book designed to be read out aloud in church – fast-paced, easy to understand, a masterclass in storytelling. No other version would challenge its dominance in the English-speaking world until the mid-20th century. According to historian Adam Nicolson, the *King James Bible*'s "particular combination of majesty and freedom, of clarity and richness, was for centuries held, particularly by the Victorians, to be the defining terms of our national identity".

Former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams with a 400-year-old edition of the *King James Bible*



The Gutenberg Bible



The method by which the *Gutenberg Bible* was produced revolutionised publishing

In 1454, in the Rhineland town of Mainz, three friends – inventor Johannes Gutenberg, printer Peter Schöffer and financier Johann Fürst – pooled resources and brainpower to come up with what the British Library describes as "probably the most famous Bible in the world".

The *Gutenberg Bible*, as the three friends' creation would come to be known, signalled a step-change in printing techniques. Whereas earlier Bibles were produced by printing presses that employed woodblock technology, the press that churned out the *Gutenberg Bible* used moveable metal type, allowing more flexible, efficient and cheap printing.

Gutenberg's Bible also had massive cultural and theological ramifications. Faster, cheaper printing meant more books and more readers – and that brought with it greater criticism, interpretation, debate and, ultimately, revolution. In short, the *Gutenberg Bible* was a significant step on the road to the Protestant Reformation and ultimately the Enlightenment.

In the words of Professor Justin Champion of Royal Holloway, University of London: "The printed Bible in the hands of the public posed a fundamental challenge to papal dominion. Once released from Latin into the vernacular, the word of God became a weapon."

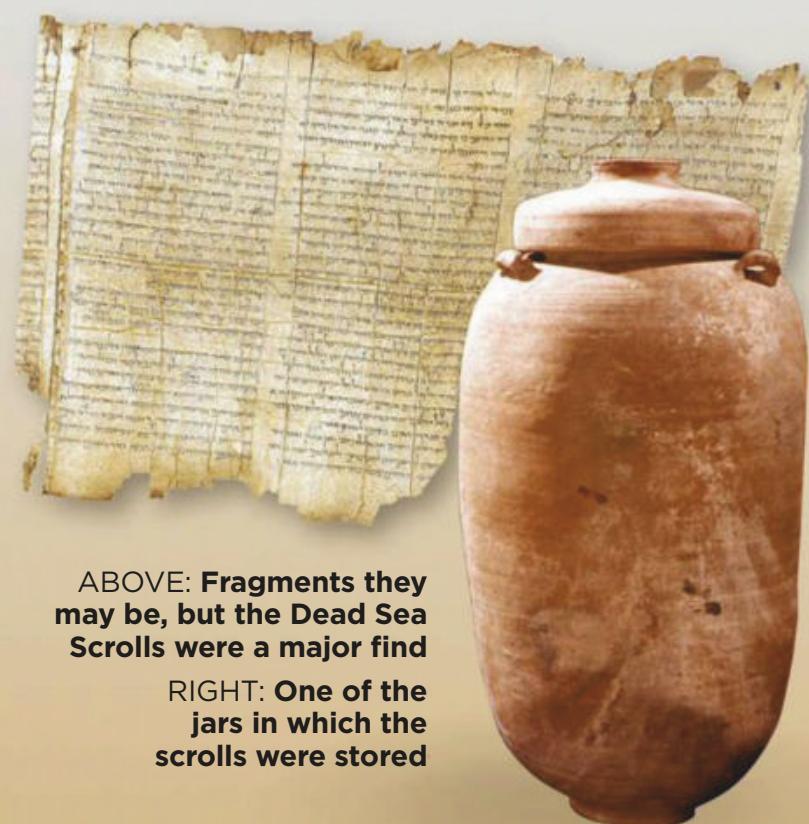
Dead Sea Scrolls

Sometime between November 1946 and February 1947, a Bedouin shepherd threw a stone into a cave at Wadi Qumran, near the Dead Sea. When he heard something crack he headed inside to investigate. What he found has been described by the Smithsonian Institute as "the most important religious texts in the Western world".

What the shepherd had chanced upon were the Dead Sea Scrolls, more than 800 documents of animal skin and papyrus, stored in clay jars for safe keeping. Among the texts are fragments of every book of the Old Testament,

except the Book of Ester, along with a collection of previously unknown hymns and a copy of the Ten Commandments. But what really makes the scrolls special is their age. They were written between around 200 BC and the middle decades of the first century AD, which means they predate by at least eight centuries the oldest previously known Hebrew text of the Old Testament.

Were the scrolls left in the caves by a Jewish community living near the Dead Sea or, perhaps, by Jews fleeing Roman troops in the first century AD? We may never know for sure.



ABOVE: Fragments they may be, but the Dead Sea Scrolls were a major find

RIGHT: One of the jars in which the scrolls were stored

Ask the expert



JOHN BARTON

The former professor of holy scriptures at the University of Oxford, and the author of *A History of the Bible: The Books and Its Faiths*

Q Just how reliable is the Old Testament as an historical document?

A Some parts, such as the early chapters of Genesis, are myth or legend, rather than history. But parts of Samuel, Kings, Ezra and Nehemiah describe events broadly known also from Assyrian or Persian sources. For example, Jehu, king of Israel in the ninth century BC, appears on an Assyrian monument, the Black Obelisk, doing obeisance to the Assyrian king. From about the eighth century BC onwards, the Old Testament contains some real historiography, even though it may not all be accurate.

Q Does it matter if it's not historically accurate? Are we guilty of placing too much emphasis on this question?

A I think we are. Much of the Old Testament is about seeing God at work in human history rather than in accurately recording the detail, and sometimes we exaggerate the importance of historical accuracy. The Old Testament is not a work of fiction, but nor is it a modern piece of history-writing.

Q How much does archaeology support the historicity of the Old Testament?

A To a limited extent. It gives us a context within which the Old Testament makes sense, but it doesn't confirm a lot of the details. It mustn't be forgotten that archaeology has also yielded vast numbers of documents from the ancient near-east, such as Assyrian and Babylonian annals, which illuminate the Old Testament world.

Q How much do we know about the scribes who wrote the Old Testament?

A The scribes are never described in detail in the Old Testament itself, but analogies with Egypt and Mesopotamia make it clear that there must have been a scribal class, probably attached as civil servants to the temple in Jerusalem or the royal



LEFT: The Black Obelisk confirms an Old Testament event

ABOVE: Ezra the Scribe was one of possibly 35 authors of the Bible

court. After the exile of the Jewish people in Babylon in the sixth century BC, scribes gradually turned into religious teachers, as we find them in the New Testament.

Q When was the Old Testament assembled into the book it is today?

A Probably during the first century BC, though parts of it were certainly regarded as holy scripture much earlier than that. But the *collection* is a work of early Judaism. It should be remembered that for a long time it was a collection of individual scrolls, not a single book between two covers.

Q Did the Old Testament anticipate the figure of Jesus Christ?

A There are prophecies of a coming Messiah – which means ‘anointed one’ – occasionally in the Old Testament, and Christians claimed them as foretelling Jesus. But messianic hopes were not widespread or massively important in first-century Judaism and are even less central to the Old Testament itself. Christians discovered texts they saw as messianic prophecies – for example, in Isaiah 7 – though other Jews did not read them that way.

Q Why did the New Testament gain so much traction in the first centuries AD?

A The New Testament was accepted because it was part of the package of the Christian message, which was massively successful in the early centuries. The message, which was that all humankind was accepted through Jesus by the God worshipped by the Jews, proved a winner.

Jesus was born in c4 BC and died – reportedly crucified on the orders of the Roman prefect Pontius Pilate – in cAD 30–33. Then, for around 40 years, news of his teachings was spread by word of mouth until, from around AD 70, four written accounts of his life emerged that changed everything.

The gospels, or ‘good news’, of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John are critically important to the Christian faith. It is their descriptions of the life of Jesus Christ that have made him arguably the most influential figure in human history.

“We can’t be sure when the gospels were written,” says Barton, “and we know little about the authors. But the guess is that Mark came first, in the 70s, followed by Matthew and Luke in the 80s and 90s, and John in the 90s or early in the second century.

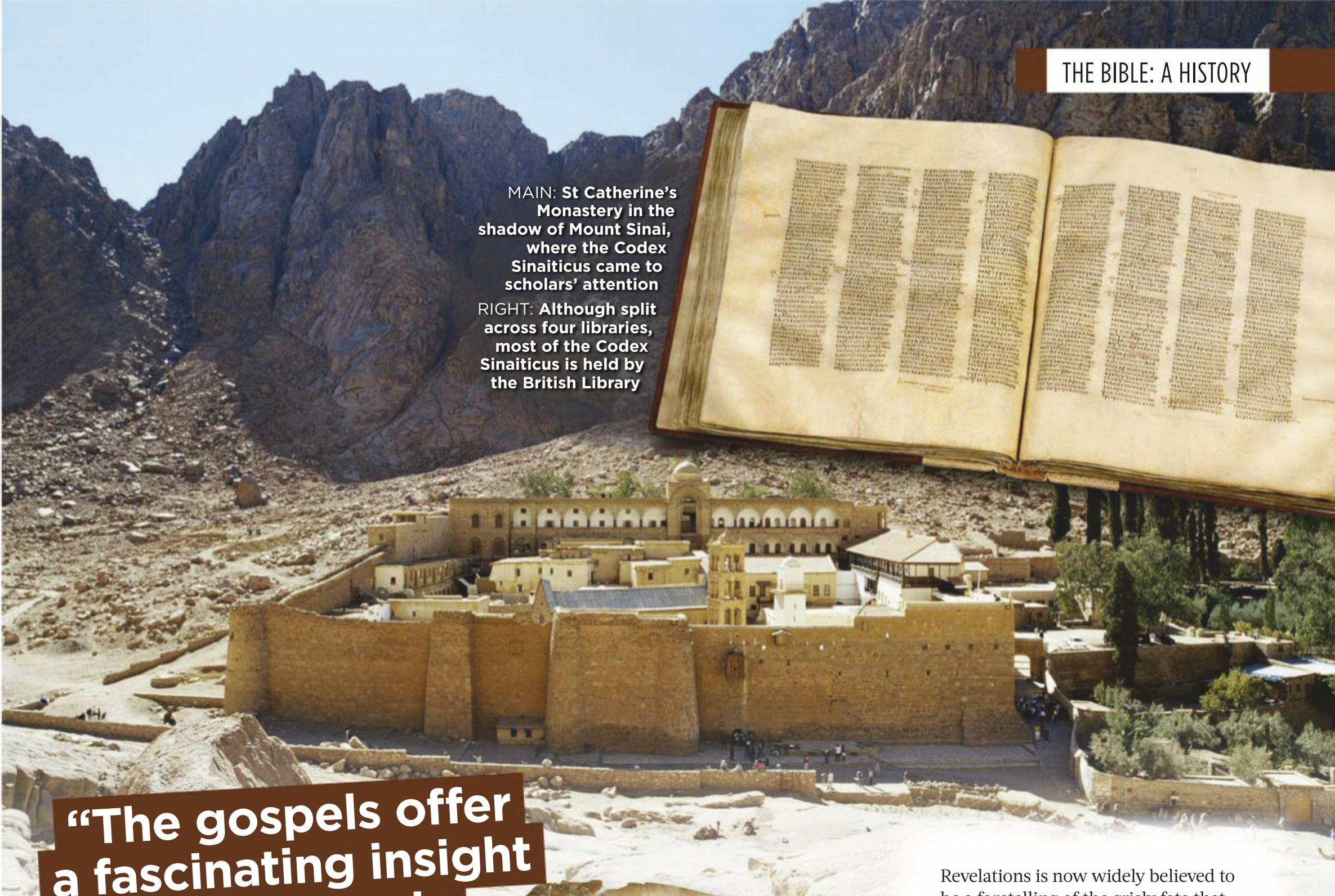
“In general, Matthew, Mark and Luke tell the same story with variations, and hence are called the ‘synoptic’ gospels, whereas John has a very different style, as well as telling a markedly different version of the story of Jesus. Matthew and Luke seem to be attempts to improve on Mark, by adding more stories and sayings from sources now lost. John is a different conceptualisation of the story of Jesus, portraying a more obviously divine figure.”

REAL-LIFE REVELATION

Though the variations in the four gospels may have proved a source of frustration to those trying to paint a definitive picture of Jesus’s life and teachings, they offer a fascinating insight into the challenges facing the early Christian church as it spread around the Mediterranean world in the first and second centuries AD.

Mark, it’s been argued, wrote for a community deeply affected by the failure of a Jewish revolt against the Roman empire in the AD 60s, while Luke wrote for a predominately Gentile (non-Jewish) audience eager to demonstrate that Christian beliefs could flourish within the Roman empire. Both John and Matthew hint at the growing tensions between Jewish Christians and the Jewish religious authorities.

As a Jew, Jesus would have been well-versed in the Hebrew Bible and, according to the gospels, saw himself as the realisation of ancient Jewish prophecies. “Don’t think that I came to destroy the law, or the prophets,” Matthew reports him saying. “I didn’t come to destroy, but to fulfil.” But for



MAIN: St Catherine's Monastery in the shadow of Mount Sinai, where the Codex Sinaiticus came to scholars' attention
RIGHT: Although split across four libraries, most of the Codex Sinaiticus is held by the British Library

“The gospels offer a fascinating insight into the early Christian church”



all that, by the time the gospels were written, schisms between Judaism and nascent Christianity were clearly emerging.

Such tensions are evident in what is surely our best source for the initial spread of Christianity: the Epistles, or letters, written by Paul the Apostle to churches dotted across the Mediterranean world. “The epistles [which make up 13 books of the New Testament] are our earliest evidence for Christianity,” says Barton. “The first date

from the AD 50s, just two decades after the death of Jesus. They confirm that Christianity started in Jerusalem, but spread rapidly to Syria and then to the rest of the Mediterranean world, and was mostly accepted by non-Jews.”

DARK DESCRIPTIONS

As Paul’s letters to churches such as the one in the Greek city of Thessalonica reveal, the first Christian communities were often persecuted for their beliefs. And it’s such persecution, particularly at the hands of the Romans, that may have inspired the last book of the New Testament, Revelations. With its dark descriptions of a seven-headed beast and allusions to an imminent apocalypse,

These letters, known as the Epistles of Paul, are the most faithful chronicle of the early advance of Christianity

Revelations is now widely believed to be a foretelling of the grisly fate that the author believed awaited the Roman oppressors of Christianity.

Despite that oppression, by the fourth century Christianity had become the dominant religion in the Mediterranean world, with the New Testament widely revered as a sacred text inspired by God. “It was around this time,” says Barton, “that the 27 books of the New Testament were copied into single books as though they formed a single work.” One example is the Codex Sinaiticus, now in the British Library. “The first person to list exactly the books we now have as the New Testament is the fourth-century bishop Athanasius of Alexandria, but it’s clear that he was only reporting what was already widely accepted.”

By the end of the early fifth century, a series of councils across the Christian world had effectively rubber-stamped the New Testament that we know today: the Bible’s journey to being the most influential book in human history was well and truly under way. ☀

GET HOOKED

READ

John Barton’s *A History of the Bible: The Book and Its Faiths* (Allen Lane, 2019) is available now

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Q&A

YOU ASK, WE ANSWER



DOOMSDAY SCENARIO
Nuclear testing during the 1950s put the clock closer to midnight than ever before



WHO DEVISED THE DOOMSDAY CLOCK?



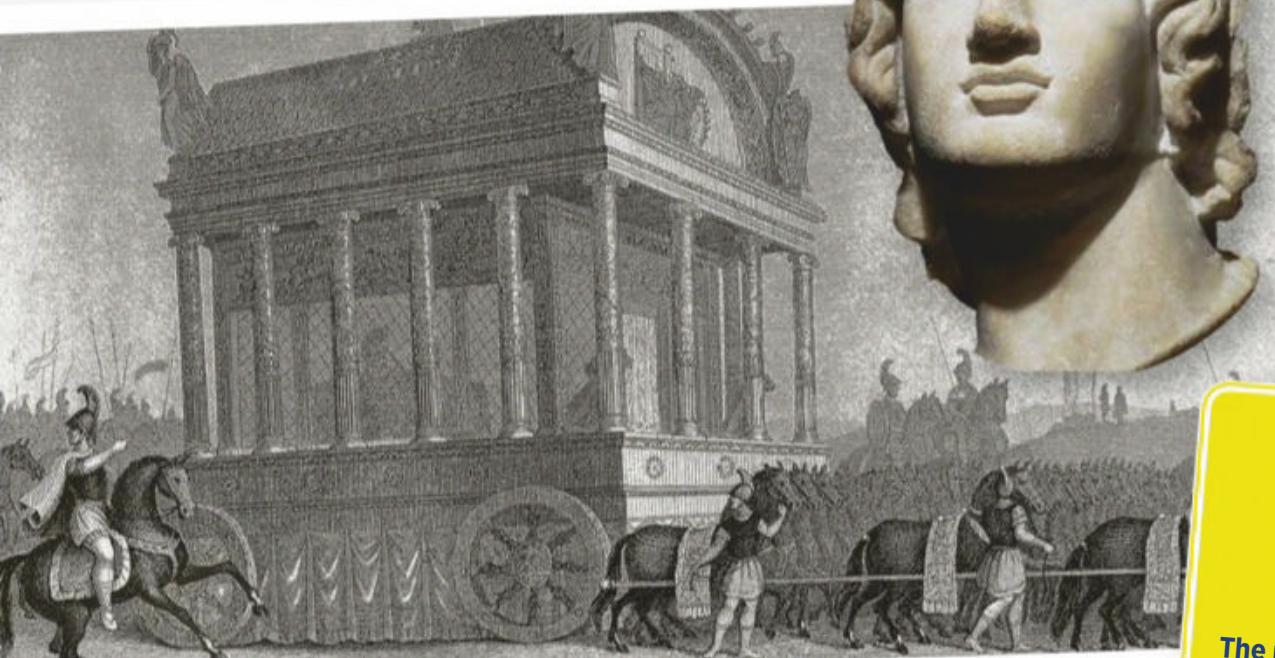
When Marty Langsdorf, the wife of one of the Manhattan Project physicists, was asked to design the cover for the *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists* in 1947, she chose a clock. It was to warn of the dangers of nuclear war and to convey a "sense of urgency", she said. That clock has since become a powerful symbol of how close humankind is to global catastrophe.

Originally set to seven minutes to midnight, it has changed more than 20 times, with the safest time (17 minutes to midnight) coming in 1991 after the end of the Cold War and the signing of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty. The closest it has got is two minutes to midnight, which came after nuclear tests in the 1950s – and where it is now due to the threat of climate change.



DID YOU KNOW?
NO TIME FOR A CRISIS
Despite the Cuban Missile Crisis bringing the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962, the Doomsday Clock didn't change from seven minutes to midnight. Two reasons have been offered: that the crisis only lasted a few weeks, and that valuable lessons were learned from it.

PRECIOUS PROCESSION
Alexander's body was believed to have been returned to Greece in a golden coffin



Where was **Alexander the Great** buried?



Like Genghis Khan and Cleopatra, the legacy of Alexander the Great has survived the ages – even if the whereabouts of his final resting place has not. The King of Macedon and empire-builder was on his way home from his undefeated campaign of conquest in 323 BC when he died, aged 32, in Babylon.

Cause of death remains a matter of dispute, as does the location of his tomb, with speculation ranging from Vergina in Greece, the Siwa Oasis in Egypt, and the most likely

(and appropriately named) candidate, the Egyptian city of Alexandria. As his body travelled back to Greece in a golden coffin, it is said to have been seized by his successor, Ptolemy I Soter. To ensure a fitting burial, he took it to Memphis, and then it was reinterred in Alexandria.

Before the tomb was lost, it was visited by some notable people. Among them were Roman emperors Augustus, who laid flowers, and Caligula, who, in keeping with his morally dubious character, stole Alexander's breastplate.

18

The number of months that the Pony Express, launched in 1860, was in operation. Letters could be delivered from one side of the US to the other in ten days.



CURIOS CLUB

New recruits to the Order of the Pug were required to wear dog collars

WHAT BIRTH CONTROL WAS THERE IN ANCIENT EGYPT?



Women in Ancient China drank mercury to prevent conception – which may have worked, but only as it caused organ failure all over the body – while in Greece, the esteemed physician Soranus advised jumping backwards seven times after intercourse.

By comparison, Ancient Egyptian methods of birth control were way ahead of their time. Dating to the second millennium BC, there were a number of spermicides to choose from, including fruit from the acacia tree mixed with honey and ground dates, or women could try the far less appealing option

of crocodile dung. There was a version of the pill too, made of ground, high-in-natural-estrogen pomegranates.

For men, there were condoms of linen soaked in olive oil or the more effective choice of intestinal membrane from a sheep.

If a woman wasn't sure if the birth control had worked, there was then a pregnancy test they could take, which modern science has shown to be surprisingly accurate. They would urinate on a bag of barley or emmer wheat and, if pregnant, the contents would start growing in a matter of days.



IT'S ONLY NATURAL
Mixing together honey, acacia fruit and dates allegedly made an effective spermicide

WHO WAS THE RICHEST ROMAN?

Target There were many Romans who lined their pockets through privilege and power, but one was better off than the rest. Meet Marcus Licinius Crassus, a third of the First Triumvirate with Julius Caesar and Pompey, the military commander who ended Spartacus's uprising, and one of history's richest individuals.

He built a fortune on slaves, silver mines and property that he confiscated from criminals and defeated enemies on behalf of the state. Crassus spotted holes in the market to exploit – and did so ruthlessly. With no firefighting service in Rome, he employed hundreds of men who would be sent out to douse house fires in the city,

but only if the owners sold him the property at a knockdown rate. If they wouldn't pay, Crassus and his brigade would watch the house burn.

He may have accrued as much as 200 million sesterces – about £200 billion today. Yet even that sum didn't make him the richest person to have lived. That honour is held by Musa I, the 14th-century mansa of the Mali Empire, which stretched across West Africa. With abundant stores of gold and control of trade routes, he built a fortune so eye-watering that there's no way of accurately putting a number on its size.

GREED IS GOOD?

Crassus stopped at nothing to accrue wealth, including ransacking the Temple of Jerusalem for its gold



Why do popes change their names?

Target While it is not actually required for a new pope to take on a different name, it has been going on for 1,500 years and been an established custom for 500.

Pope Francis is so-called to honour Francis of Assisi and his commitment to helping the poor, but the first pontiff to change name did it primarily to sound more Christian. In AD 533, Mercurius – named for the Roman god Mercury – wanted to be known by something less pagan so became John II. Changing names remained an infrequent occurrence until the 16th century, when Marcellus II became the last pope to keep his baptismal name.

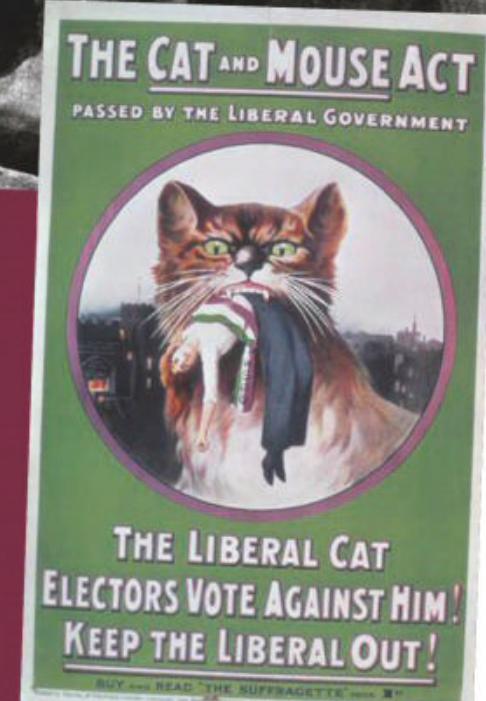
MONIKER MOVE
Mercurius was the first papal name-changer



DID YOU KNOW?
DEATH BY CHEESE
A common judicial practice in Anglo-Saxon England was trial by ordeal – for example, if you sank when thrown into a lake, you were innocent. But the most unusual was corsned. The accused had to eat an ounce of bread and cheese. If they choked, they were guilty.



CRUEL INTENTIONS
A suffragette is force-fed while captive in London's Holloway Prison



WHAT WAS THE CAT AND MOUSE ACT?

Target When imprisoned suffragettes began a campaign of hunger strikes in 1909, beginning with Marion Wallace Dunlop going 91 hours without food, the British government's solution was barbaric. It was forcible feeding. But descriptions and depictions of rough, dirty tubes being shoved down women's throats as they were pinned down caused outrage in the country, so the government needed another solution.

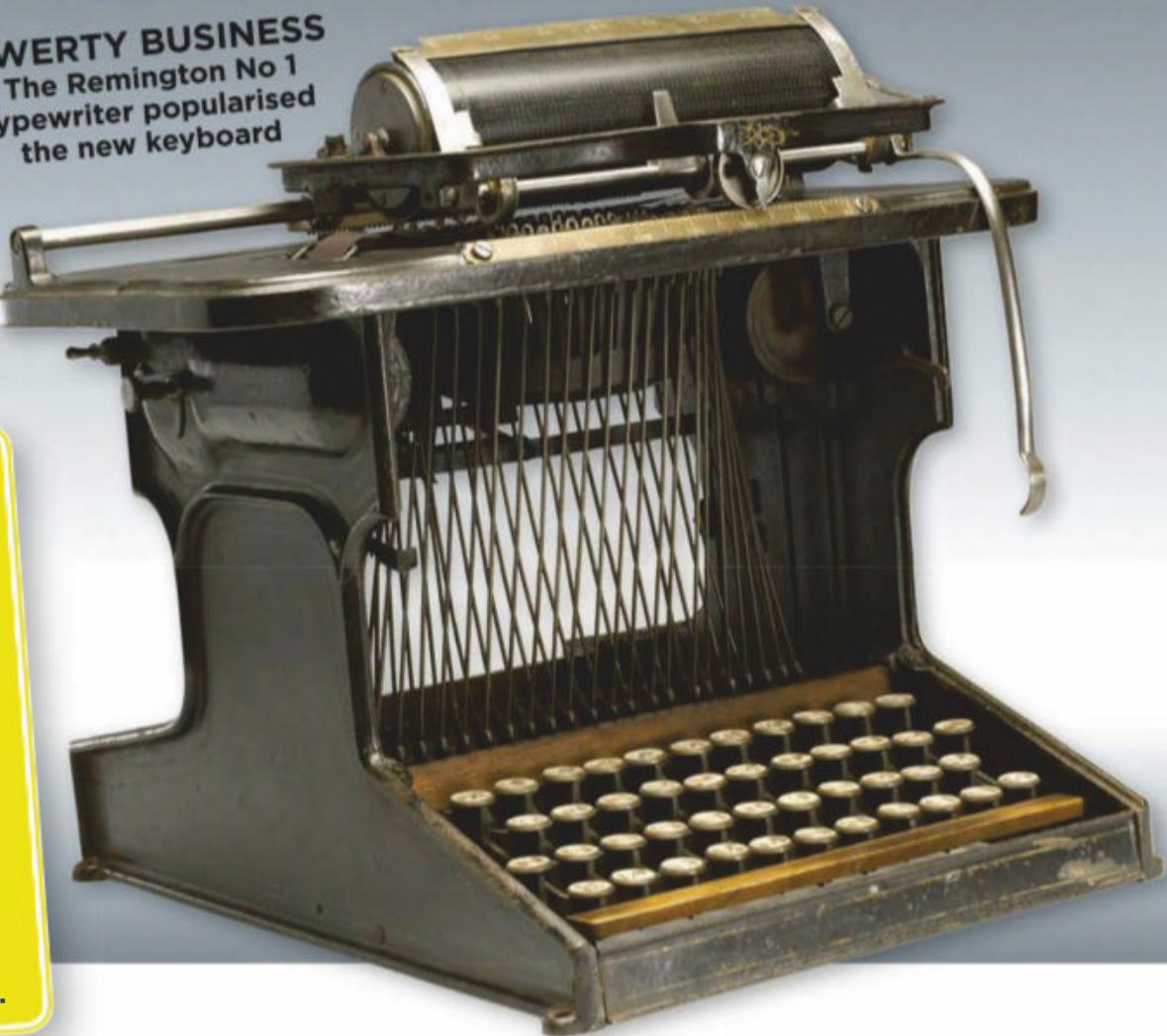
That was the Prisoners (Temporary Discharge for Ill Health) Act, better known as the Cat and Mouse Act. Rushed through parliament in April 1913, it stated that when a suffragette became too weak to remain behind bars, they would be released to recover and then re-arrested.

Like a cat playing with a mouse, it was seen simply as a way to prolong the degradation and suffering endured by women fighting for the vote. Yet it also became something of a weapon in the suffragette arsenal. Whenever a woman was released, they would do all they could to evade re-arrest, making them heroic outlaws for the cause.

KINGSIZE REIGN
Swaziland's Sobhuza II
ruled for 82 years



QWERTY BUSINESS
The Remington No 1
typewriter popularised
the new keyboard



718

The number of Concorde flights taken by British businessman Fred Finn, the world's most travelled person. He once flew between New York and London three times in a single day.

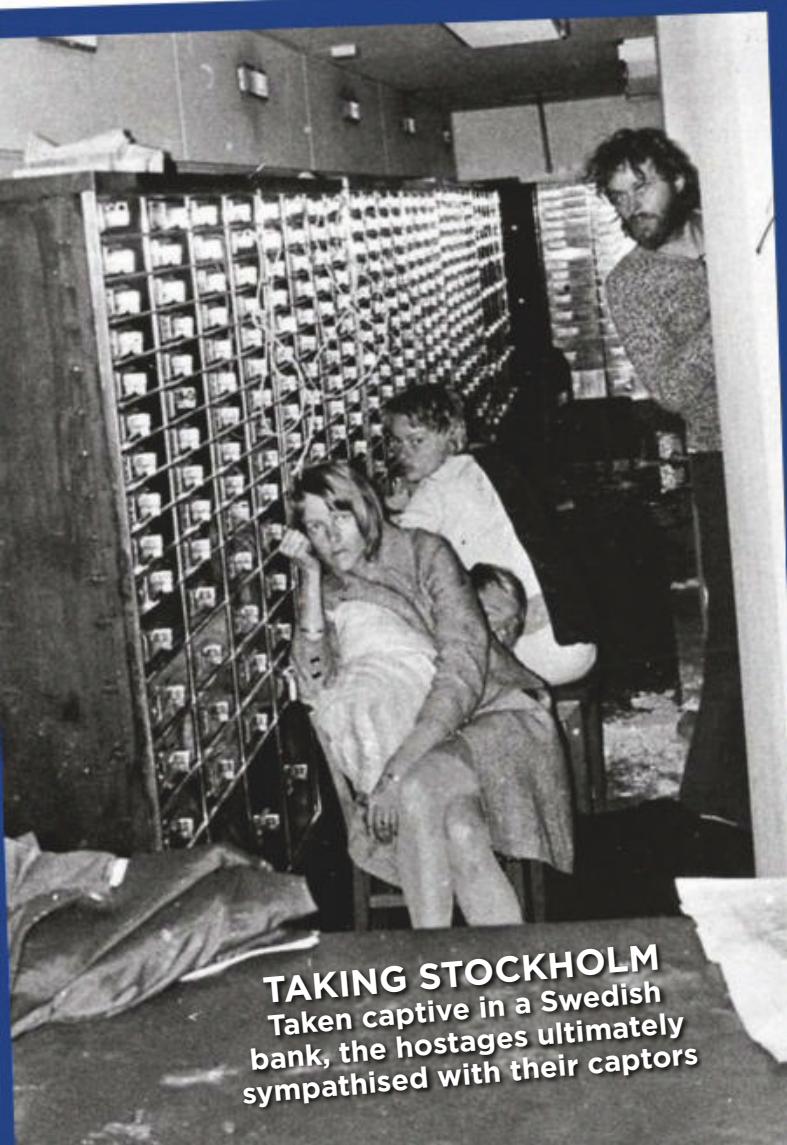
WHO WAS THE LONGEST-REIGNING MONARCH?



At 67 years and counting, Elizabeth II is the world's longest still-reigning monarch, but she is a way off the all-time record.

That belongs to Sobhuza II of Swaziland, who came to the throne at four months old in 1899 and ruled for 82 years and 254 days. He saw Swaziland go from a British protectorate – when he was called Chief Paramount – to independence in 1968, after which the country thrived. As did Sobhuza's family. He had 70 wives, more than 200 children and, at the time of his death in 1982, in excess of 1,000 grandchildren.

ALAMY X4, GETTY IMAGES X3



TAKING STOCKHOLM
Taken captive in a Swedish bank, the hostages ultimately sympathised with their captors

When was 'Stockholm Syndrome' coined?



As its name suggests, Stockholm Syndrome – which refers to when a hostage identifies with, or even forms an affection for, their captor – has its roots in Scandinavia.

It began with a botched robbery. On 23 August 1973, Jan-Erik Olsson held up a bank in the Swedish capital, but when the police arrived, he took four employees as hostage in the vault. The drama played out on television and the front pages. Meanwhile, Olsson – who demanded he be joined by a friend called Clark Olofsson – formed the most unlikely of relationships with his captives over the next six days.

One of the three captured women, Kristin Ehnmark, had a chance to speak to the Swedish prime minister, explaining that she felt safe with the two men. Even when the only male hostage, Sven Safstrom, was threatened with being shot to scare the police outside, he actually expressed gratitude that it would only be in the leg.

The standoff eventually ended when police pumped tear gas into the vault, but there they found the robbers being protected by the hostages, who later refused to testify against the pair in court, and even raised money for their defence. These strange reactions led criminologist and psychologist Nils Bejerot to coin the term Stockholm Syndrome.

應需
一筆筆誌



ULTIMATE SACRIFICE
Killing yourself in such a vicious manner was a Japanese practice than endured for centuries

DID WOMEN COMMIT SEPPUKU?

THE RITUAL SUICIDE
The ritual suicide of seppuku, also called hara-kiri, endured for centuries in Japan and was most commonly associated with the samurai. Think the legendary story of the 47 ronin ordered to disembowel themselves. Yet women carried out such rituals themselves – indeed, the wife of one of the 47 did just that, an

act that required cutting one's own neck. Sometimes the knees were tied together to ensure a dignified pose after death. Such suicide was reserved for the wives of dishonoured samurai or to evade capture by an enemy. During the Boshin War of 1868–69, 22 women from one family died by their own hands rather than surrender.

DID YOU KNOW?
SHOCKER SHLOCKER
The first Hollywood feature film to include a toilet being flushed, was Alfred Hitchcock's *Psycho*. In a film based on real-life killer Ed Gein, you would think there was more to shock audiences than an on-screen bathroom.

Did the guillotine come from France?

THE ANSWER
The answer comes in two parts – a bit like the unfortunate victim of the guillotine after execution. To begin: yes. French physician Joseph-Ignace Guillotin proposed a mechanism that “beheads painlessly” to the National Assembly and a few years later in 1792, a highwayman was first to face the chop on a prototype. The guillotine then became synonymous with the French Revolution and the Terror, remaining the state method of capital punishment until 1977.

Now the other part of the answer: no. Execution devices like the guillotine existed long before the French doctor got involved. The

medieval period throws up a few contraptions, like the Halifax Gibbet, the Scottish Maiden or the mannaia in Italy.

These likely inspired the guillotine.

While Guillotin suggested using such a machine, he didn't make it. It may have been designed by surgeon Antoine

Louis and built by German maker of harpsichords, Tobias Schmidt. Yet Guillotin will always be the name attached to the dreaded blade that claimed tens of thousands of heads. He loathed that fact, and his family ended up changing their name to avoid the connection.

CHOP CHOP
France used the guillotine as late as 1977

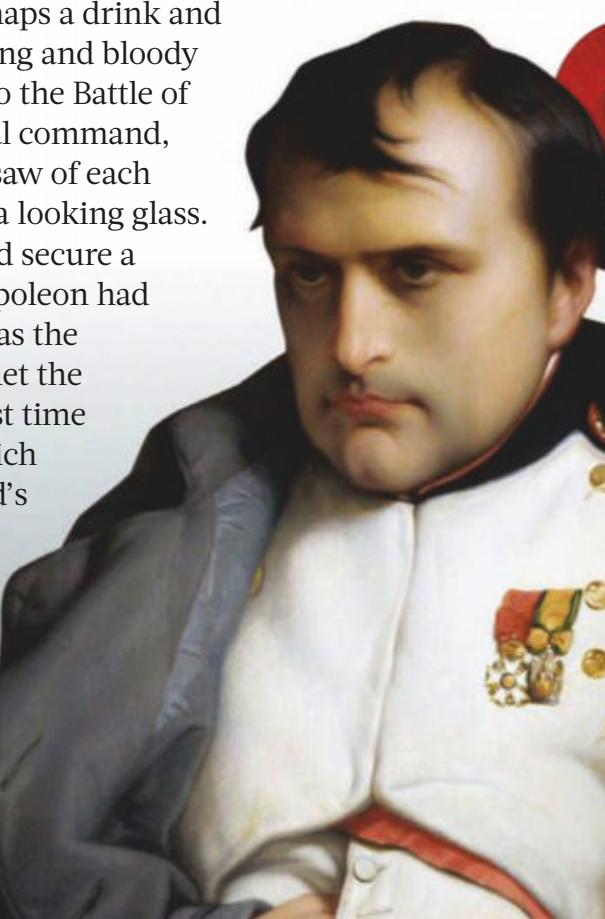


Did Wellington and Napoleon meet?

THEIR FAMOUS ENCOUNTER
It's a compelling image: Old Nosey and Boney sharing a tense yet fiercely civil moment, perhaps a drink and reluctant compliment, during their long and bloody rivalry. Yet, from the Peninsular Campaign to the Battle of Waterloo, where both men were in personal command, the most that Wellington and Napoleon saw of each other was across the battlefield through a looking glass.

The victorious Wellington, however, did secure a likeness of his nemesis – a huge statue Napoleon had commissioned of himself, nude and dressed as the Roman god of war Mars. And he also twice met the French Emperor's wife, Marie Louise, the first time being at the Congress of Vienna in 1815, which sought to establish peace after her husband's first abdication.

SIGHT UNSEEN
At best, the two leaders only spied each other through telescopes

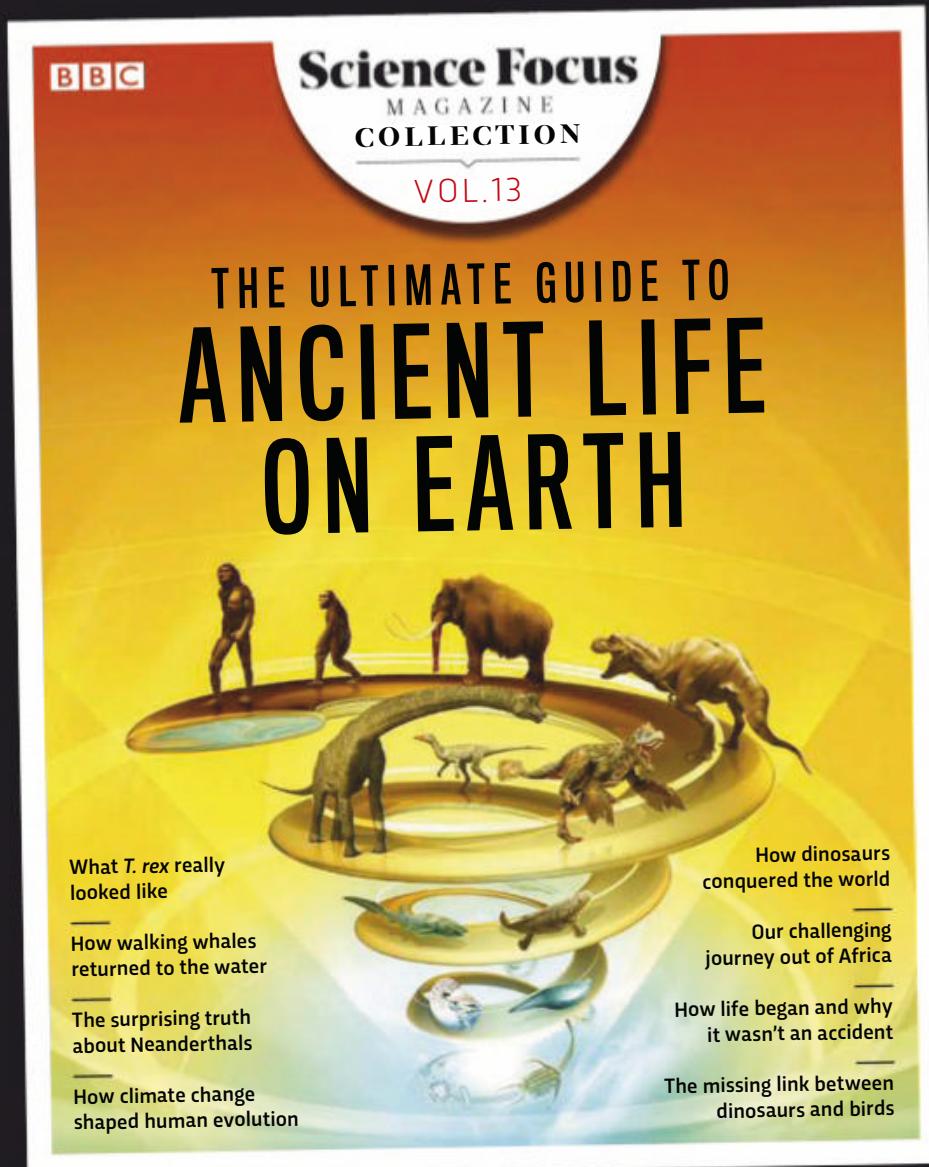


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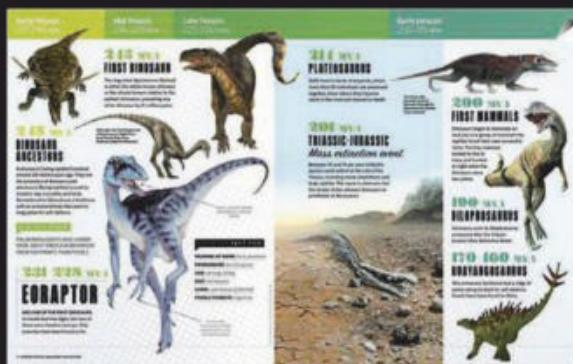
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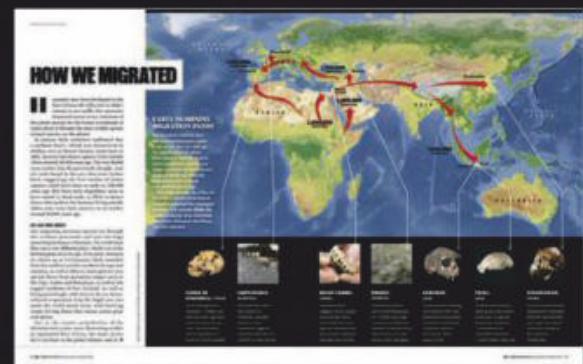
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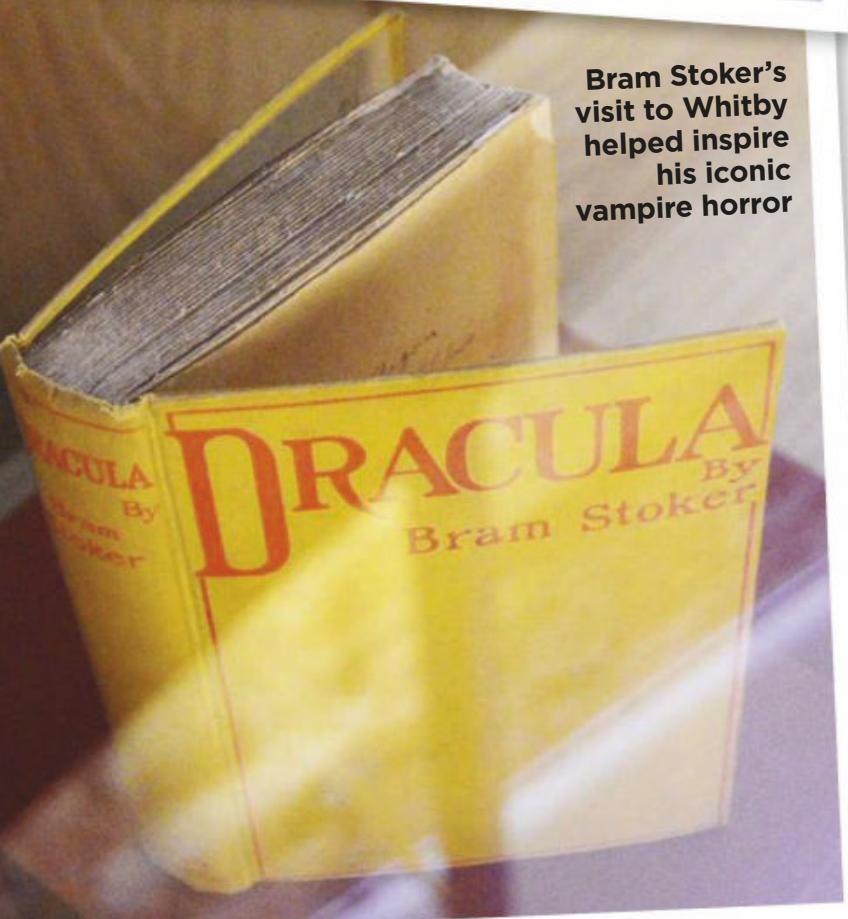
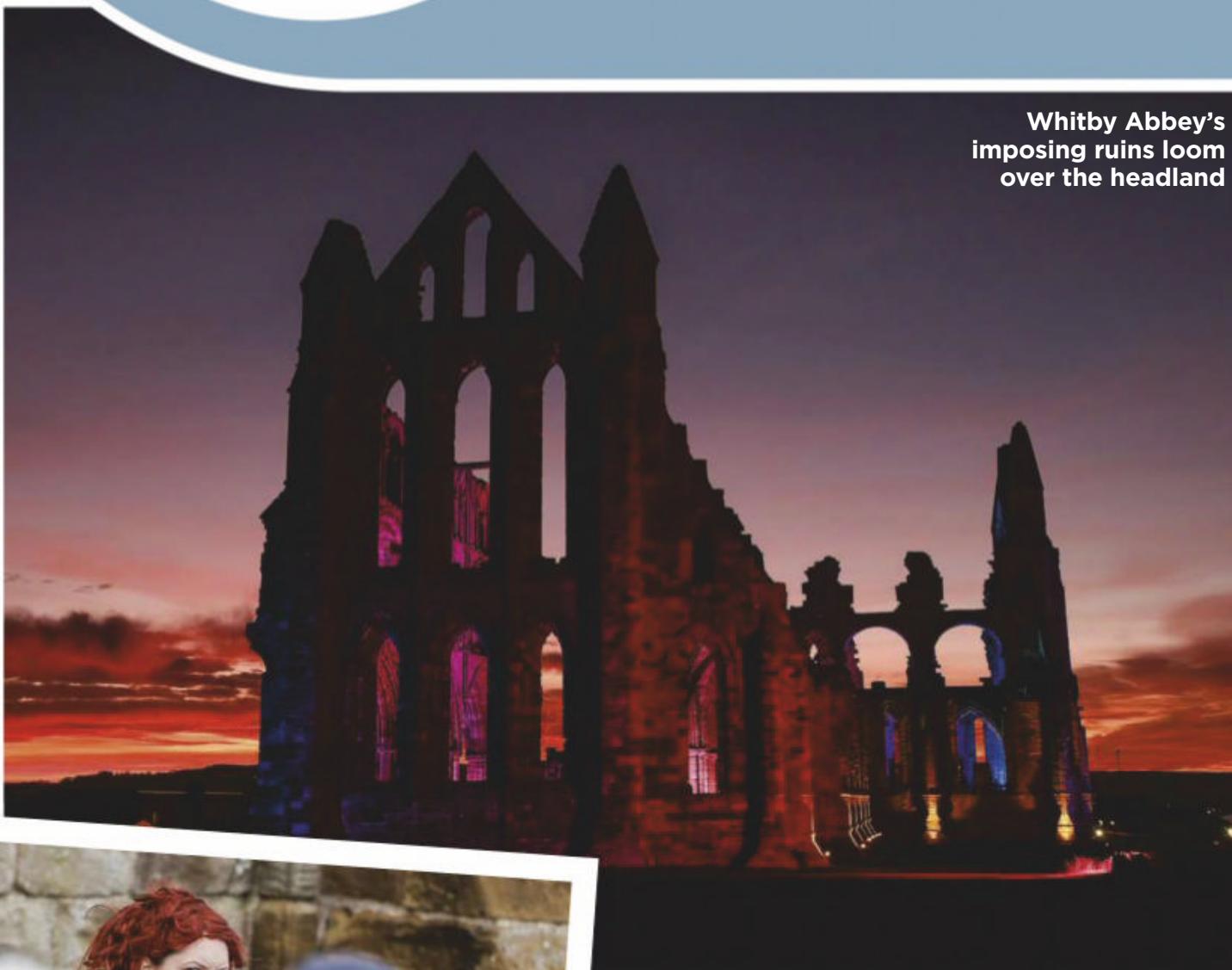


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ON OUR RADAR

A guide to what's happening in the world of history over the coming weeks



EVENT

English Heritage Storytelling Weekend

Whitby Abbey, Whitby, 25-27 May and St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, 6-7 June
www.english-heritage.org.uk/tellingtales

Would you like to meet Bram Stoker, Agatha Christie, Geoffrey Chaucer or Charles Dickens? That's what English Heritage is offering – plus many other writers – with its inaugural Storytelling Weekends, taking place in the picturesque ruins of Whitby Abbey in North Yorkshire over the bank holiday weekend of 25-27 May, and St Augustine's Abbey in Kent on 6-7 June. Famous authors from history, played by performers, will be on stage and hosting writing workshops – and perhaps engaging in spirited debates with each other. The fun-filled weekends of storytelling, music, games and poetry are part of a broader Telling Tales season, exploring how myths, legends and folklore have shaped our understanding of history.

Whitby Abbey's imposing ruins loom over the headland

WHAT'S ON

Pirates wreak havoc at Portsmouth p82



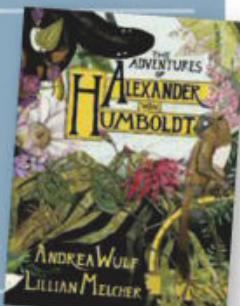
BRITAIN'S TREASURES

St Davids Cathedral... p86



BOOK REVIEWS

Our look at the best new releases.... p88



POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

Your best photos of historical landmarks... p92



ON OUR RADAR





EXHIBITION

Horrible Histories Pirates

Portsmouth Historic Dockyard

www.historicdockyard.co.uk/site-attractions/attractions/horrible-histories-pirates-exhibition

Tales of buccaneering pirates have thrilled young and old for centuries and now the creators of the popular *Horrible Histories* series – Terry Deary and Martin Brown – are bringing their unique (and often gruesome) take on the past to Portsmouth. This interactive exhibit will take visitors on a swashbuckling adventure, full of the amusing illustrations and grisly facts that fans of the book series have come to love. Learn how to talk like a pirate, design your own flag and find out how these fearsome warriors became the scourge of the seas.



'Starry Night on the Rhône' (1888) was painted from the quayside in Arles

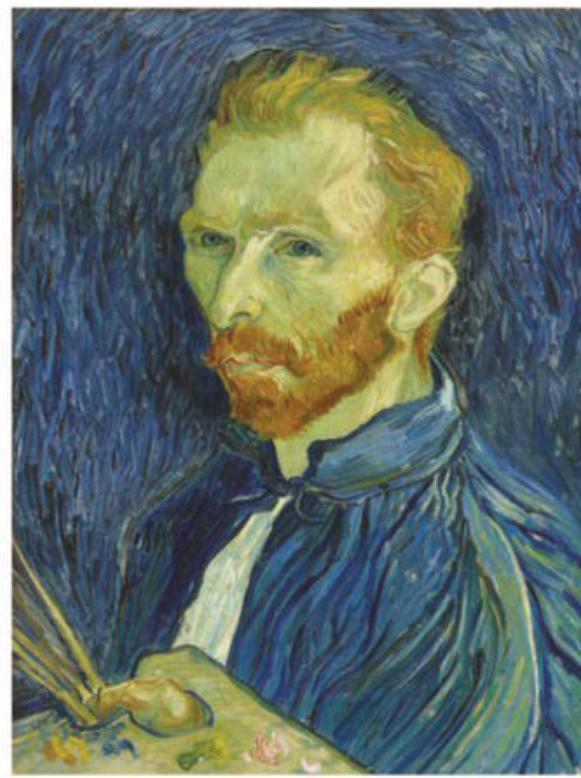
EXHIBITION

Van Gogh and Britain

Tate Britain, until 11 August

www.tate.org.uk/whats-on/tate-britain/exhibition/ey-exhibition-van-gogh-and-britain

Some of the finest artworks created by Vincent van Gogh will be brought together in the UK for the first time in a decade. The Dutch post-impressionist painter spent many years living in London as a young man, and became fascinated with artists such as John Constable and the novels of Charles Dickens. Van Gogh paintings including 'Sunflowers' and 'Starry Night on the Rhône' will be on show, as will pieces by British artists who were inspired by his work.



'Self Portrait, Autumn' (1889)



'Sunflowers' (1888)



Coinage was a propaganda tool for kings and queens

EXHIBITION

Making a Nation: Money, Image and Power in Tudor and Stuart England

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge, until 30 June
www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk

Monarchs used coins as a way of cultivating their identities and asserting their right to rule, something explored in this exhibition on the economy and coinage of the Tudor and Stuart periods. It contains some intriguing objects, including a medal given to a soldier during the Civil Wars, and the Sherborne hoard, which demonstrates that foreign currency was present in Tudor England.

TO BUY

BBQ sword

Historic Royal Palaces, £19.99,
www.historicroyalpalaces.com

The Sun is starting to make an appearance and you know what that means – it's BBQ time! Why not be a cut above the rest and do some barbecuing like a proper musketeer with this sword – complete with mask so you can keep your true identity a secret while cooking up a summer feast.

Stick a fork in me, I'm done...



Choose your side – then watch the battle unfold

EVENT

Civil Wars

Pontefract Castle, 1-2 June
www.pontefractcastle.co.uk/civilwars.aspx



The Cavaliers and Roundheads are coming to Pontefract castle! During the British Civil Wars, the castle was an intimidating Royalist stronghold and suffered three sieges by the Parliamentarians – the last of which saw it reduced to ruins. This free event will transport the castle back to the 17th century as re-enactors bring the fight back to Pontefract with gun displays and siege engines.

FESTIVAL

Chalke Valley History Festival

Broadchalke, Wiltshire, 24-30 June, www.cvhf.org.uk

One of the largest festivals dedicated to history is returning to Chalke Valley this year with a fantastic line-up. Living history sessions will give visitors the chance to fire a longbow, sample some Tudor cuisine and learn how the Battle of Trafalgar unfolded. Speakers include Tracy Borman, Dan Snow, Olivette Otele, Tom Holland, Kate Williams and Dan Jones.



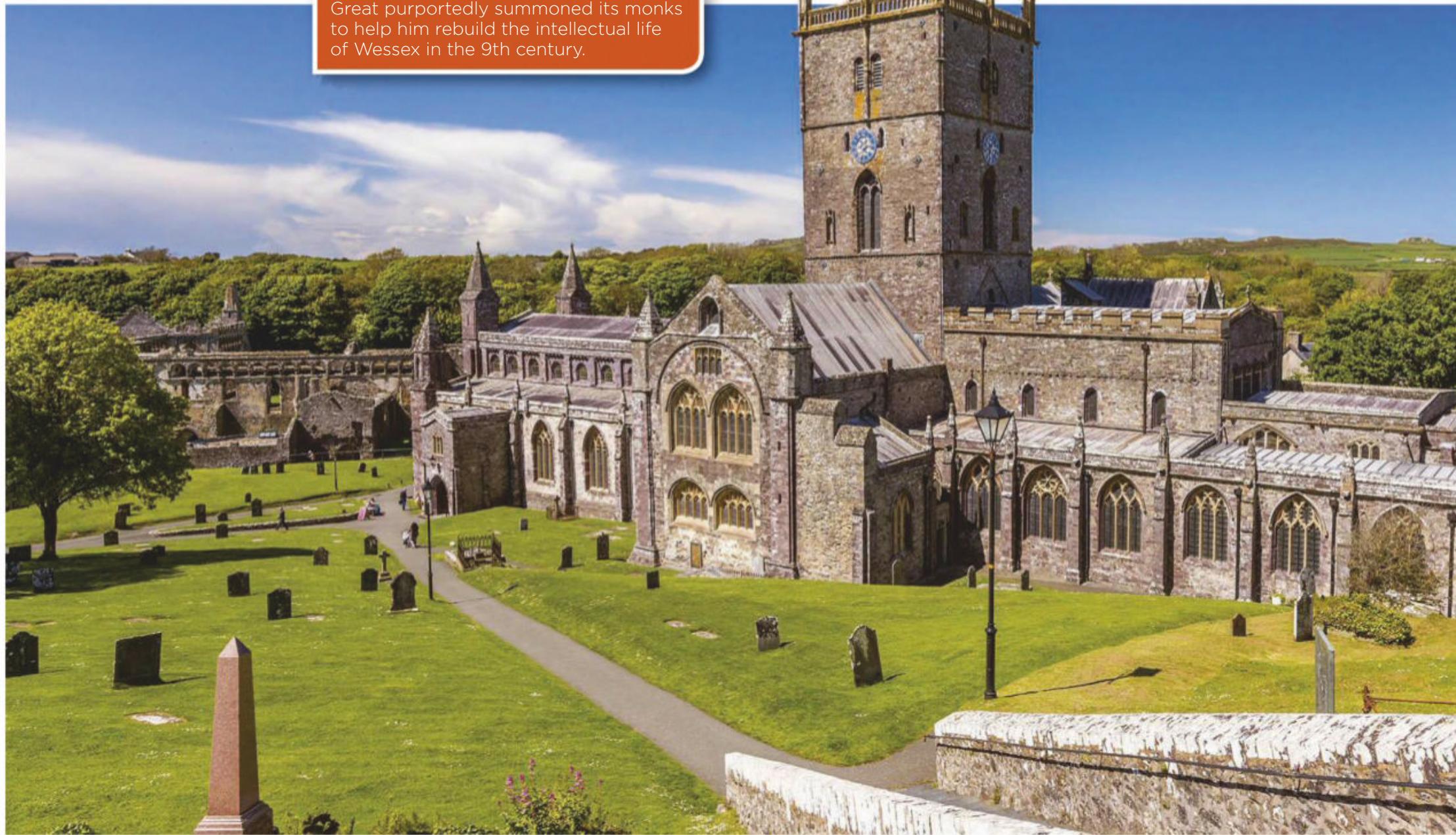
Talks at Chalke Valley run the gamut of history

► ALSO LOOK OUT FOR

- **Samurai: Warriors of Ancient Japan** – Exhibition with stunning examples of armour, swords and helmets. Bucks County Museum, Aylesbury, 6 April to 13 July, bit.ly/2VjW6qw
- **Old King Coal** – A celebration of northeast England's mining heritage with parades, a brass band and pit ponies. Beamish – The Living Museum of the North, 27 June to 1 July www.beamish.org.uk/events/old-king-coal

BASTION OF KNOWLEDGE

Even before the cathedral was built, St Davids was renowned as a centre of learning – so much so that Alfred the Great purportedly summoned its monks to help him rebuild the intellectual life of Wessex in the 9th century.



BRITAIN'S TREASURES... ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL, Pembrokeshire

This icon of Britain's smallest city honours the patron saint of Wales

GETTING THERE:

The cathedral is located in the city of St Davids in the northwest corner of Pembrokeshire, west Wales.

**OPENING TIMES
AND PRICES:**

Pre-booked guided tours are available, with donations of £5 per adult visitor welcomed.

FIND OUT MORE:

www.stdavids cathedral.org.uk

Most cities are sprawling, throbbing metropolises. St Davids certainly isn't. Were it merely a town, it would invariably be described as a small town. Its permanent population stands at around 1,600, although this is swelled throughout the year by tourists swarming to this quiet corner of Pembrokeshire.

What marks St Davids out as a city – and what draws a large proportion of those visitors – is its cathedral. The present-day structure has been in situ since the late 12th century, but the site itself has been significant in a religious sense for many more centuries than that. Indeed, as Ralph Griffiths, emeritus professor

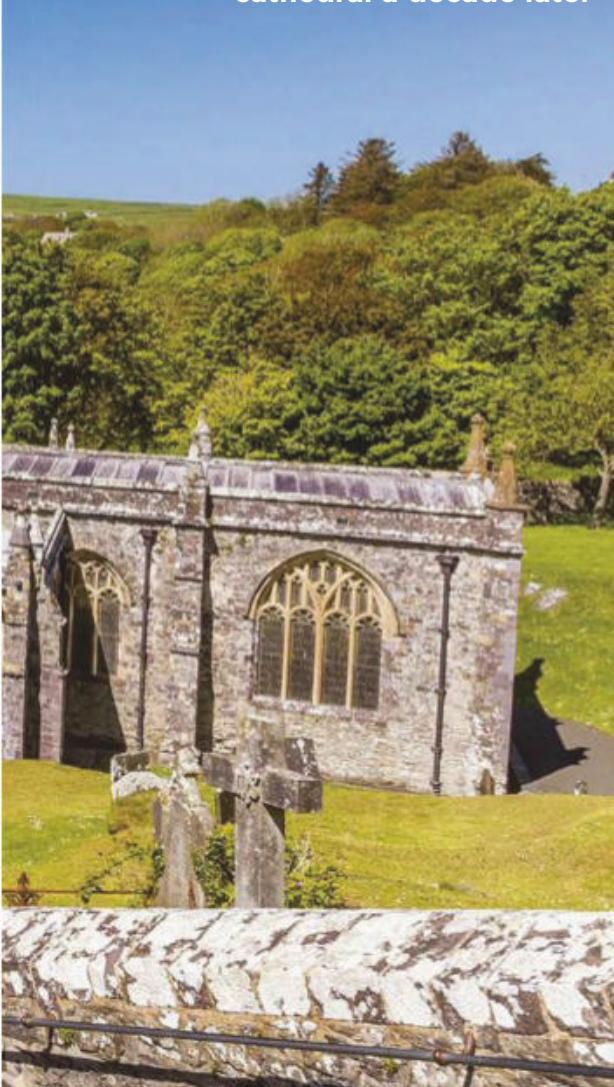
of medieval history at Swansea University, states, it's "one of the most significant sites in the history of Christianity in the British Isles, and one of the earliest".

David, the patron saint of Wales after whom the city is named, was born around AD 500 and founded a monastery at Glyn Rhosyn, the site of the later cathedral. Leading a strictly monastic life (his simple bread-and-water diet even eschewed such simple fare as meat and beer), he rose to become bishop, as well as founding other churches and monasteries across Wales and southwest England. Several miracles have also been ascribed to him, adding to his high veneration. Indeed, when he died

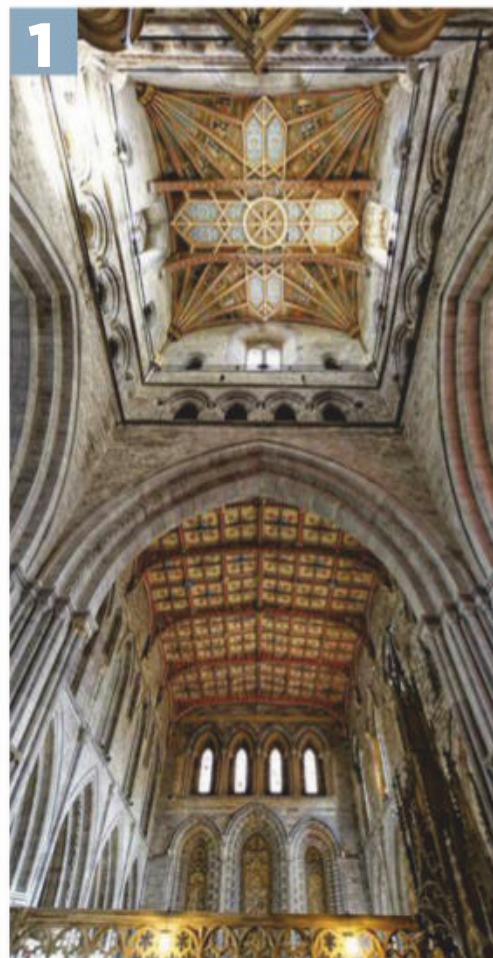
in 589, the monastery in Pembrokeshire is reported to have been "filled with angels as Christ received his soul".

The shrine to David established posthumously at Glyn Rhosyn drew a great number of pilgrims to west Wales throughout the Middle Ages (this was despite being targeted by marauding Vikings from the late 8th century onwards). Acknowledging the location's spiritual importance, William the Conqueror even paid a visit to say prayers in 1081 and, roughly 50 years later, a Norman cathedral was built on the site. Around the same time, Pope Calixtus II declared it to be a significant place of pilgrimage: he decreed that two

St David himself became more popular after Henry II visited the region in 1171 – prompting the construction of a larger cathedral a decade later



WHAT TO LOOK FOR...



PAINTED TOWER CEILING

This splendid timber ceiling dates from the early decades of the 14th century, following the tower's rebuild after a partial collapse.



EDMUND TUDOR'S TOMB

The choir of the cathedral is the resting place of Henry VII's father, whose remains were transferred from Carmarthen in 1539



ST DAVID'S SHRINE

A shrine to David has been in place since his death in the late 6th century. Its latest restoration occurred in 2012.



BISHOP'S PALACE

Built in the mid-14th century but largely abandoned after the Reformation, the palace ruins are fascinating to explore.



LADY CHAPEL

Although restored in late-Victorian times, the cathedral's Lady Chapel retains many striking medieval features.

“Pope Calixtus II declared it a place of pilgrimage”

pilgrimages made to St Davids were the equivalent of one to Rome; three were equal to one journey made to Jerusalem.

St Davids wasn't just spiritually significant, as William almost certainly deduced. Its location was also vital strategically, a significant link between Ireland, Wales and England, which the Vikings had clearly realised too. This partially explains the cathedral's precise location. While most cathedrals dominate their landscape, St Davids was built in a valley, out of view of those external raiders coming across the sea.

HALLOWED HALL

Between 1180 and 1182, the present cathedral began to be built. It wasn't, though, without incident.

In 1220, its tower partially collapsed and, in 1247, significant damage was inflicted by an earthquake. In the first half of the 14th century, the neighbouring Bishop's Palace was constructed, although it later fell into ruin when the number of pilgrims heading west severely declined after the Reformation. Indeed, the cathedral's own bishop, William Barlow, stripped the lead from the roof, allegedly to pay the dowries of his five daughters. The ruins can be visited today, having been extensively restored around ten years ago.

The cathedral itself has fared slightly better, and continues to host services throughout the week. This doesn't mean it's not come under attack over the intervening centuries. In 1648,

much of the building was gravely wrecked by Parliamentary soldiers during the Civil Wars; the aggressors also destroyed precious manuscripts held in the library.

Notable architects were commissioned to return the cathedral to its past glory, with John Nash setting to work on the restoration of the west front in the closing years of the 18th century. Within a few decades, his work was found to be substandard, leading to the prolific George Gilbert Scott being engaged to revitalise the entire cathedral.

More restoration work has been undertaken since, the most recent of which was the Shrine of David, unveiled and rededicated in 2012. The man who started it all has never been forgotten. ◎

WHY NOT VISIT...

Other historical sites found across Pembrokeshire

ST GOVAN'S CHAPEL

Located on the southern tip of the county, this tiny 14th-century chapel is built into a fissure in the sea cliffs near Bosherston. www.visitpembrokeshire.com/attraction-listing/st-govans-chapel

PEMBROKE CASTLE

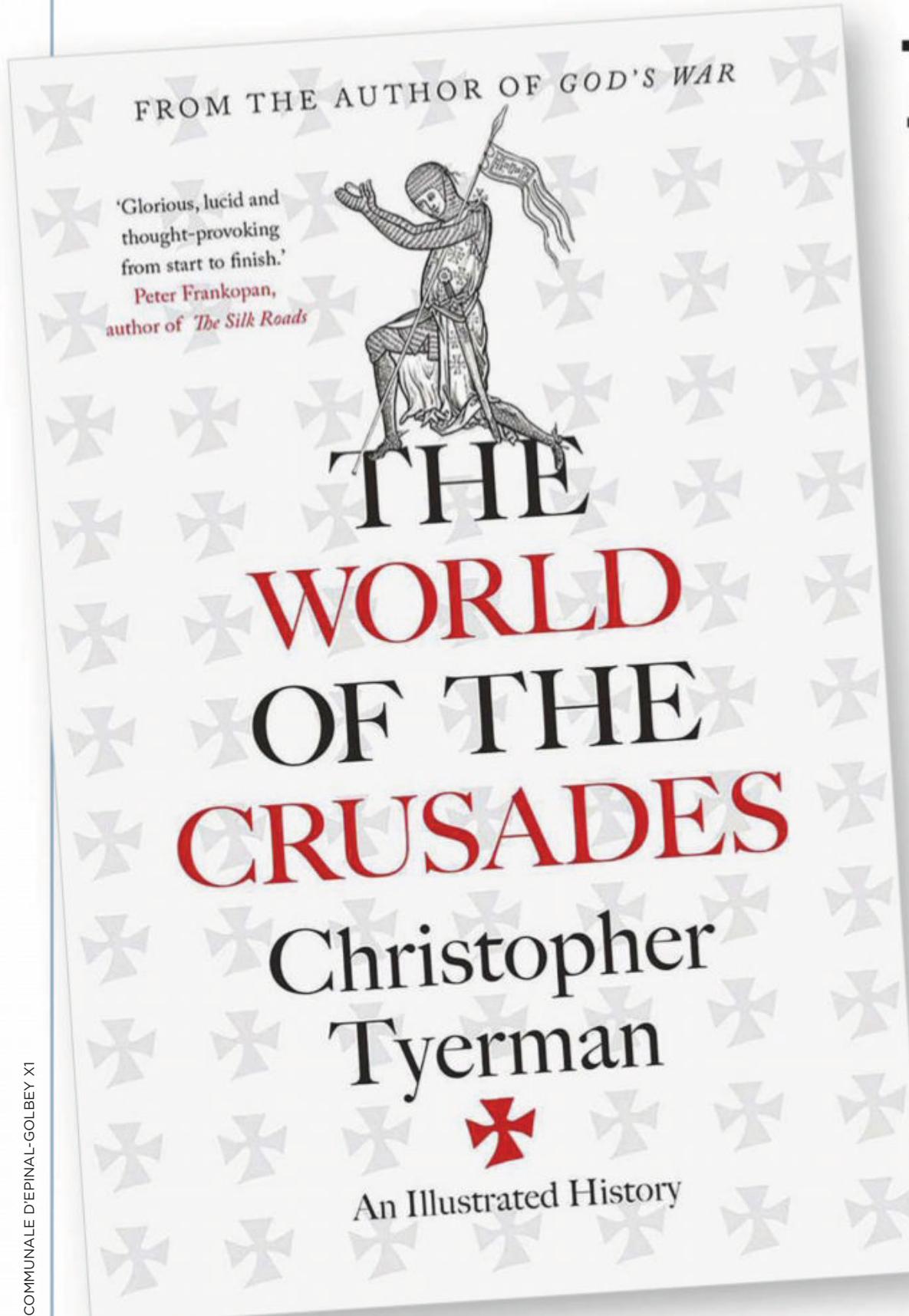
This medieval castle was not only the birthplace of the future Henry VII, but was also laid siege to by Oliver Cromwell during the Civil Wars. www.pembrokecastle.co.uk

CALDEY ISLAND

Half a mile off the mainland near Tenby, Caldey has housed monks of various denominations over the centuries. It's currently occupied by Belgian Cistercians. www.caldeyislandwales.com

BOOKS

This month's best historical reads



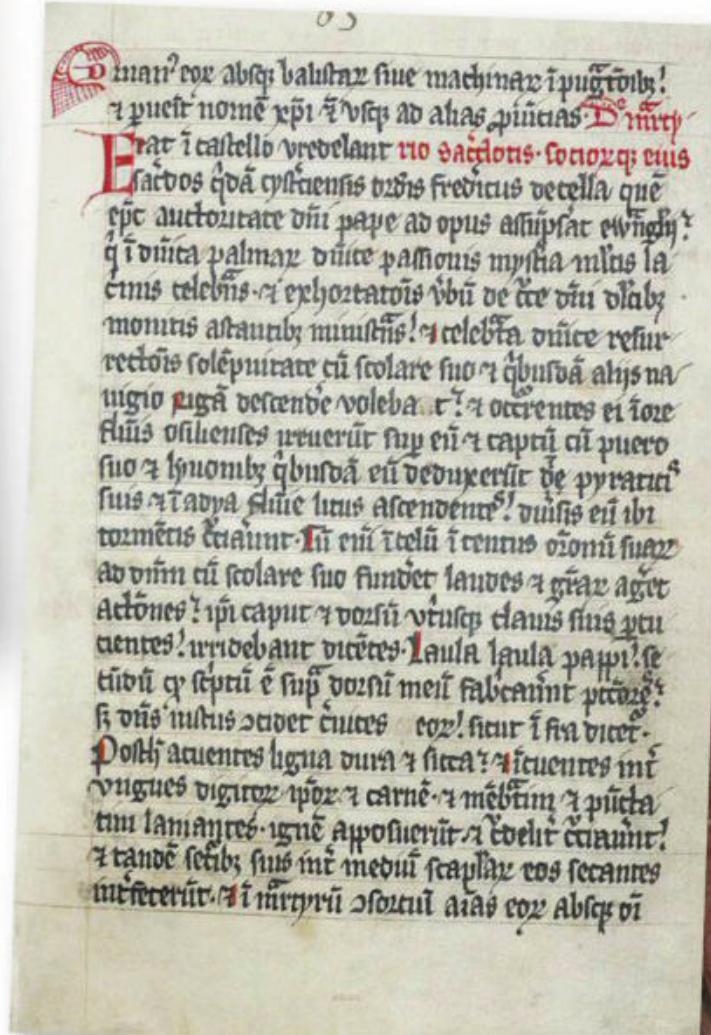
“The targets, ambitions, success and legacy of the Crusades are still debated by historians, centuries later”

**BOOK
OF THE
MONTH**

The World of the Crusades: An Illustrated History

By Christopher Tyerman
Yale, £25, hardback, 520 pages

In both their scope and scale, the Crusades can be daunting: a series of similarly named campaigns (who knows the difference between the First and Third Crusade?) launched by European Christians into the Middle East throughout the medieval period. The targets, ambitions, success and legacy of these missions are still debated by historians, centuries later. If such complexity is off-putting, Christopher Tyerman's new book offers a pleasing entry point. With 500 pages of detailed text and an array of images of art and artefacts, it combines the weight of an in-depth history with the flavouring of a visual history to help bring the subject to life.



ABOVE: The Livonian Chronicle of Henry justified the Baltic Crusades

RIGHT: Bernard of Clairvaux's preaching whipped up support for the Second Crusade





Spanish crusaders adopted the apostle St James as a 'knight of Christ' depicted here slaying Moors



MEET THE AUTHOR

Christopher Tyerman explains why the Crusades were much more than holy wars, and why aged artefacts are so important in unravelling the past

What are the benefits of understanding the Crusades through material objects?

Most written histories, including this one, feature carefully constructed narrative and analysis that can appear abstract, distancing the past from lived reality. Material objects, such as the clothes, buildings, books and art in this book, lend a concrete quality and provide direct contact with the complexity of lives in the past – not just of ruling elites or their followers but of the objects' creators, manufacturers and users. They also reveal the ways in which crusading fitted into the economic, political and social world of the period.

Are there any artefacts that are particular favourites of yours?

The crosses scratched by pilgrims and crusaders on the walls of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem provide moving testimony to ordinary individuals' experience. (Similar crosses, perhaps carved by departing or returning pilgrims and crusaders, can be seen in Holy Trinity Church in Bosham, and on Chichester Harbour in Hampshire.) The cross – from which the word 'crusade' derives – was the defining symbol of crusading, representing for the Christian faithful service, sacrifice and, in the hope and promise of salvation, reward.

Another favourite of mine is the carved hilt and pommel of the sword on the funerary effigy of the French crusader John of Alluye, which is now in the Cloisters annexe of New York's Metropolitan Museum. Alluye may have acquired the sword as a battle trophy or bought it in the souks of Acre in Palestine, but it originally came from China. The artefact illustrates how the Crusades formed part of the medieval opening of international, global commercial and cultural links that had nothing to do with the holy war itself.

We often think of the Crusades in purely military terms. Does this give us a skewed impression of their importance during this period?

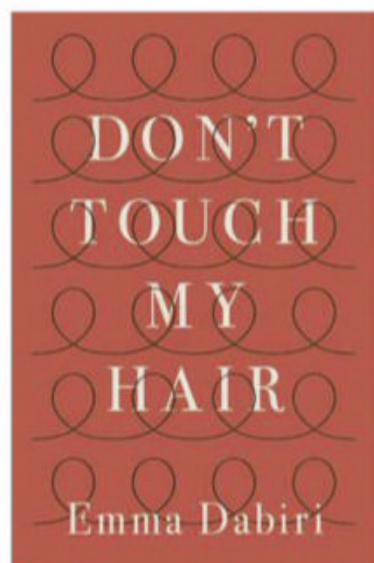
The Crusades were fought ostensibly for the defence or promotion of a starkly intolerant religious ideology that demanded political control over regions associated with the faith – initially and primarily the Holy Land of Palestine, but also later Spain, the Baltic and parts of Christendom supposedly harbouring heretics. So warfare, conquest and political occupation and economic exploitation inescapably sit at the heart of the Crusades.



“The first income taxes in Western Europe were introduced to pay for crusading”

How would you like this book to change readers' impression of the Crusades?

To make the past at once more complicated, more comprehensible and more human, and to dismantle the crude, over-simplistic and downright misleading image of the crusades as being sporadic forays into peaceful Islamic worlds by credulous hordes driven by universal misguided fanaticism. This is not a story of heroic or villainous 'us versus them', and nor is it confined to one region of conflict or to the campaigns themselves. It is about cultures across Europe and western Eurasia expressing and seeking communal identities and addressing economic and political challenges.

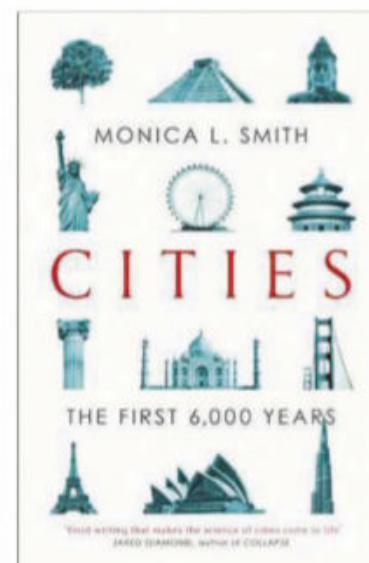


Don't Touch My Hair

By Emma Dabiri

Allen Lane, £16.99, hardback, 256 pages

Shaped by centuries of oppression, ignorance and prejudice, the ways in which black people's hair is worn and seen is a complex, thorny subject far deeper than the cosmetic. This unique, charismatic history combines personal anecdotes with diverse reference points (Pliny, ancient Africa, Whitney Houston) to reveal the ways in which wider social forces can have a lasting, physical impact on lived experience today, in the 21st century.

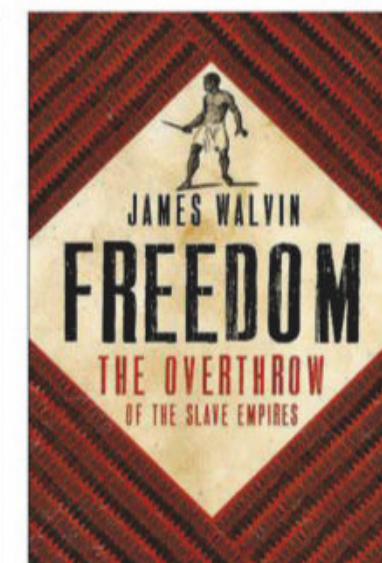


Cities: The First 6,000 Years

By Monica L Smith

Simon & Schuster, £20, hardback, 304 pages

Our image of cities – all neon storefronts and bustling traffic – might be modern, but what were urban metropolises like for our forebears from the time they first emerged 6,000 years ago? That's the intriguing question explored here, across Europe, South America and Asia. The findings reveal that while much has changed, plenty has stayed the same, from fear of violence to the pleasure of a good shopping spree.

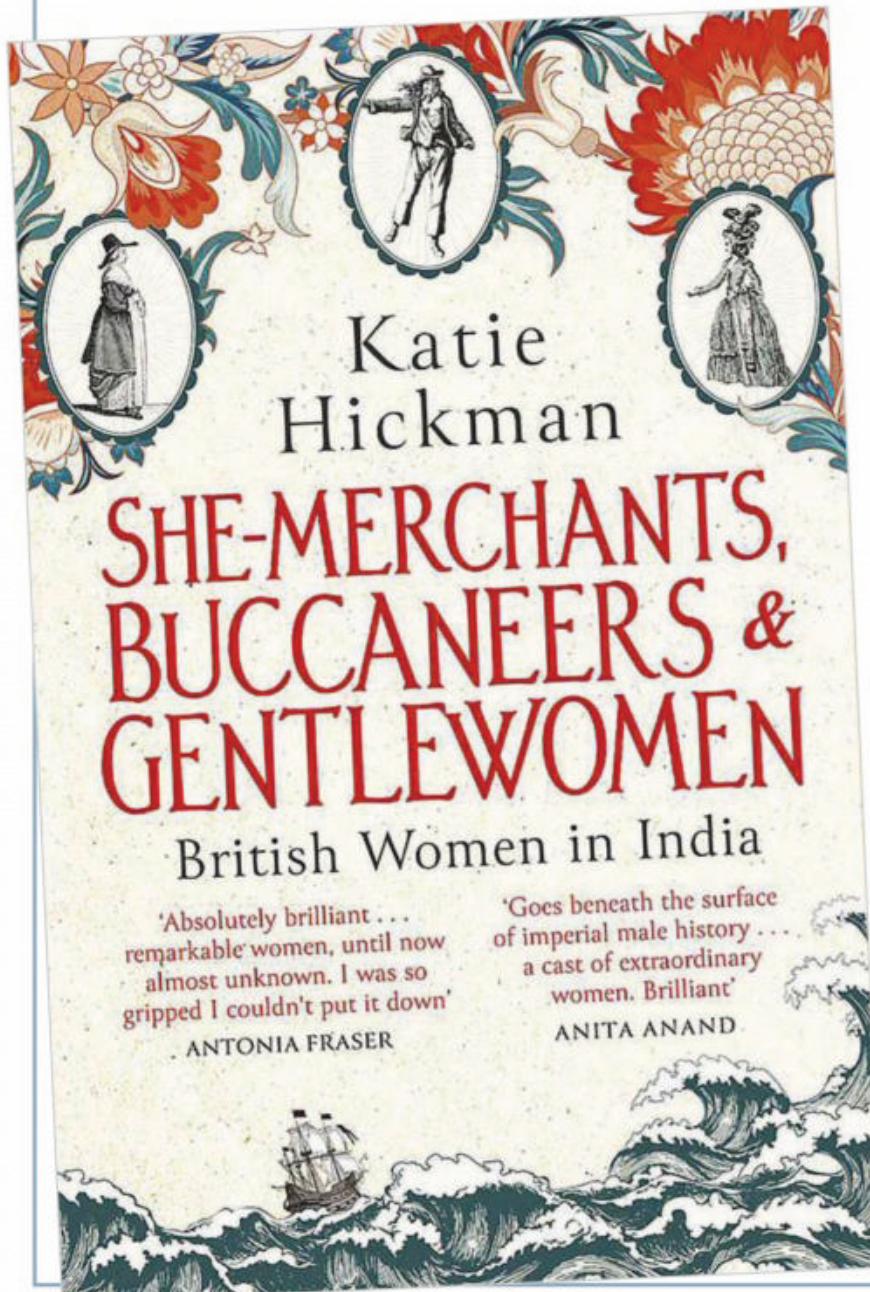


Freedom: The Overthrow of the Slave Empires

by James Walvin

Robinson, £20, hardback, 320 pages

Rather than focusing on abolitionists, this look at how the Atlantic slave trade came to an end places the role of enslaved people at the heart of the story. It's both a sobering reminder of the trade's cruelty and scope – the West benefitting from the misery of millions of people across centuries – but also, through resistance, rebellion and riots, the power of individual people to change the world against the odds.

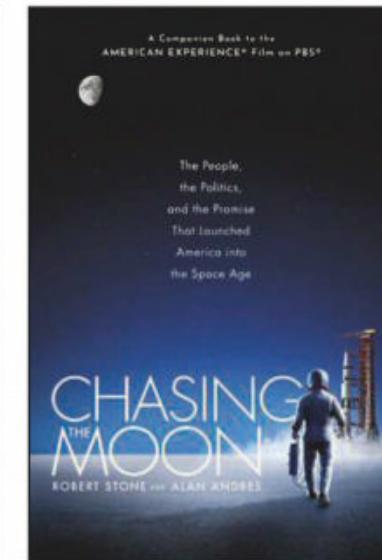


She-Merchants, Buccaneers and Gentlewomen: British Women in India

By Katie Hickman

Virago, £20, hardback, 400 pages

A welcome corrective to Raj-dominated, male-heavy histories of Britain's relationship with India, this book chronicles the lives of women who made their way to the nation as early as the 17th century. Featuring a wealth of first-person testimony including letters and diaries, it's a detailed look at the often tough experiences of a diverse cast of female pioneers, from traders and teachers to captains and courtesans.

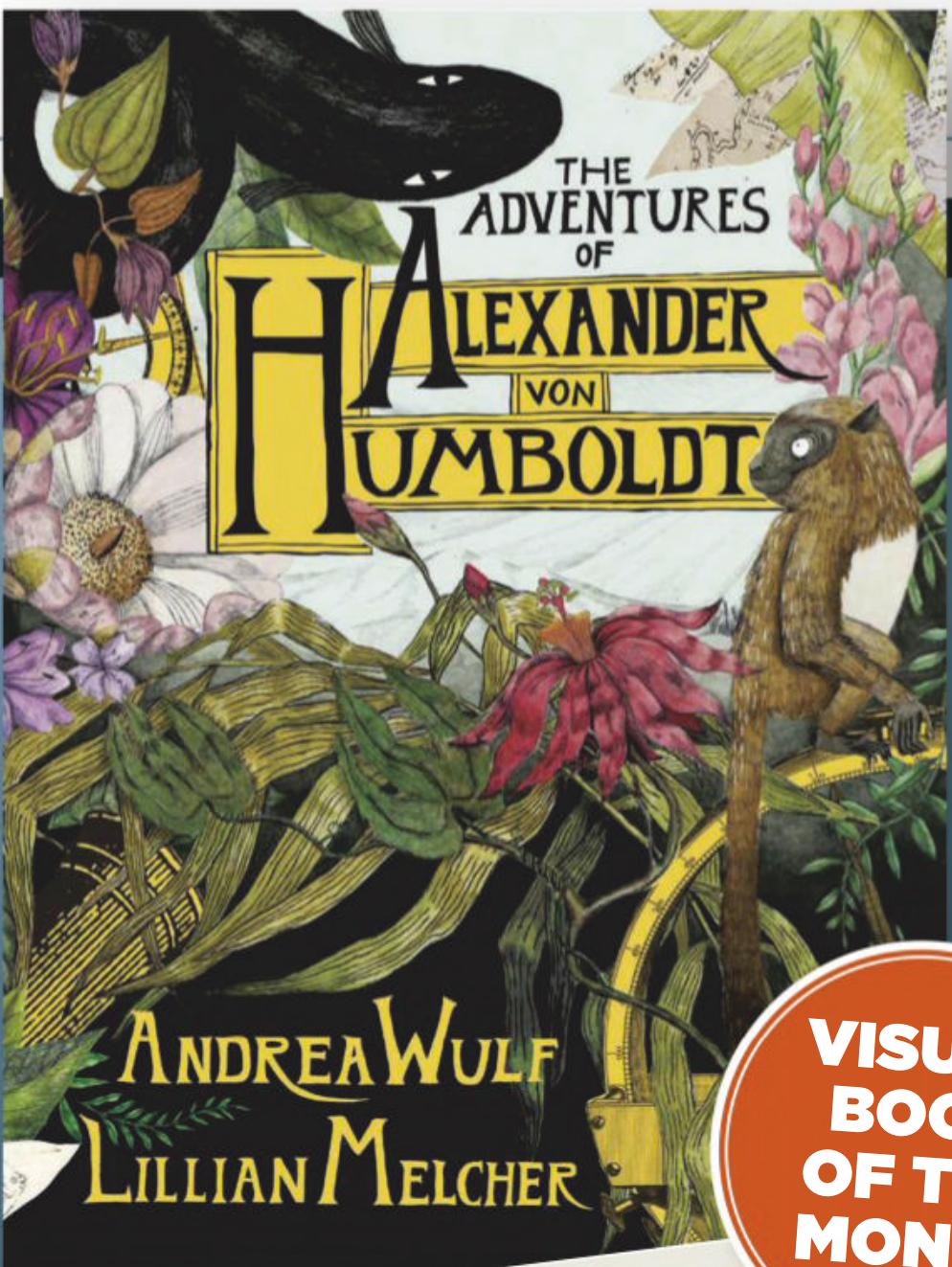


Chasing the Moon

By Robert Stone and Alan Andres

Ballantine Books, £24.55, hardback, 384 pages

The 50th anniversary of Apollo 11 is big news for fans of 20th-century history. This book is a great place to start, setting the race to reach the lunar surface within its wider context of political oneupmanship and scientific innovation. The contributions of individual players don't get lost, either, with profiles of the team of astronauts, mathematicians and computer operators who got this extraordinary mission off the ground.



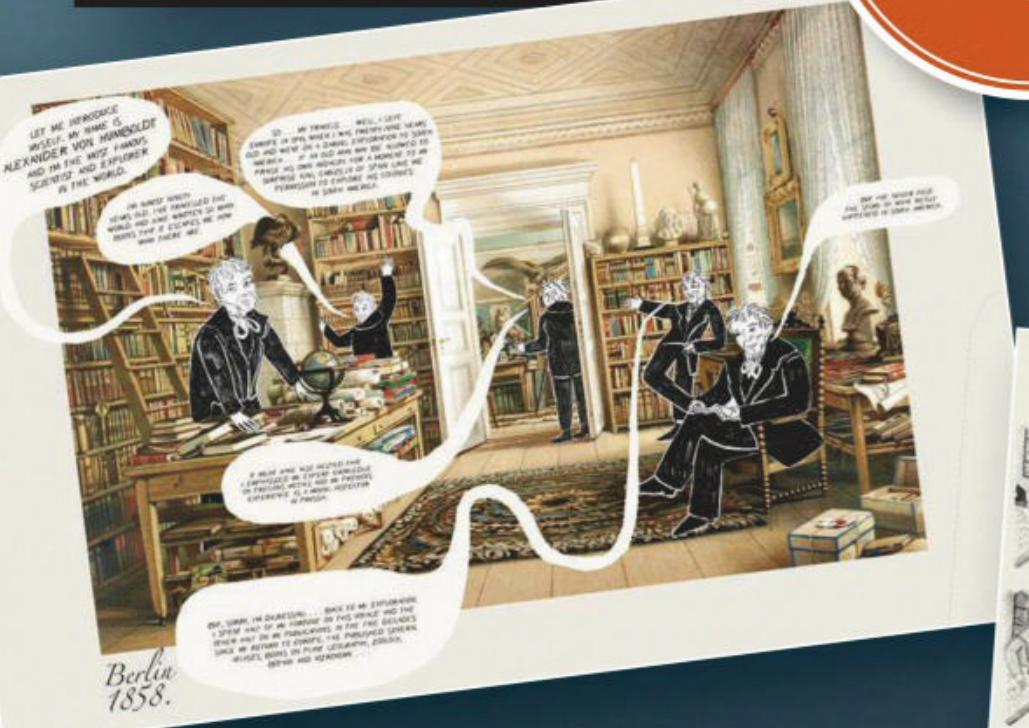
VISUAL
BOOK
OF THE
MONTH

The Adventures of Alexander von Humboldt

By Andrea Wulf and Lillian Melcher
John Murray, £20, hardback, 272 pages

This charming graphic novel is both a gripping adventure story and a biography of Alexander von Humboldt, the 19th-century scientist whose exploration of the Americas helped reveal the interconnectedness of the Universe – and the ways humans disrupt it. Presented as a journey through both his life and the rivers and rainforests of South America, it's a vivid tale of a man whose story deserves to be better known.

“The story is a journey through both Humboldt’s life and the rivers of South America”



Humboldt was the first to study Spanish South America from a scientific point of view

POSTCARDS FROM THE PAST

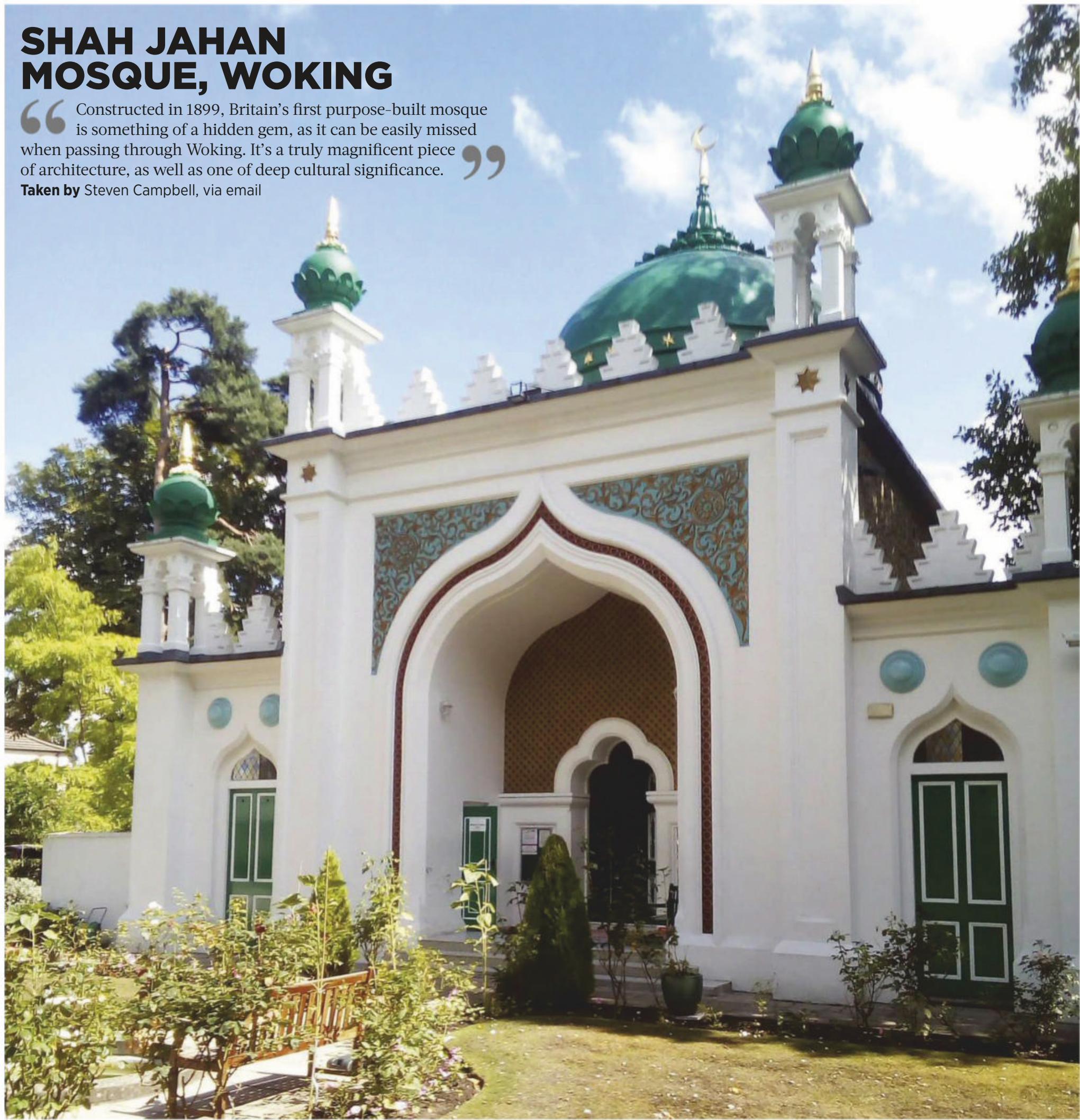
Send your historical landmark pics to photos@historyrevealed.com
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SHAH JAHAN MOSQUE, WOKING

“ Constructed in 1899, Britain’s first purpose-built mosque is something of a hidden gem, as it can be easily missed when passing through Woking. It’s a truly magnificent piece of architecture, as well as one of deep cultural significance. ”

Taken by Steven Campbell, via email





ST MICHAEL'S MOUNT, CORNWALL

“ St Michael's Mount has always been a favourite sunrise destination for photographers. On this particular morning it was freezing cold, with clear skies and little breeze. When I headed down on the beach, the rippled sand and the reflection of this Cornish landmark were just there to be captured. ”

Taken by: Paul Ashby-Johnson
@paulashbyjohnsonphotography

HOOVER DAM, US

“ I took this photo of the Colorado River dam as I was shocked to see the low water levels. The dam, built in 1936, provides hydroelectric power to California, Nevada and Arizona. Its reservoir, Lake Mead, supplies these areas with water. It's a mighty structure, but further droughts could put its use in jeopardy. ”

Taken by: Jim McIntyre, via email

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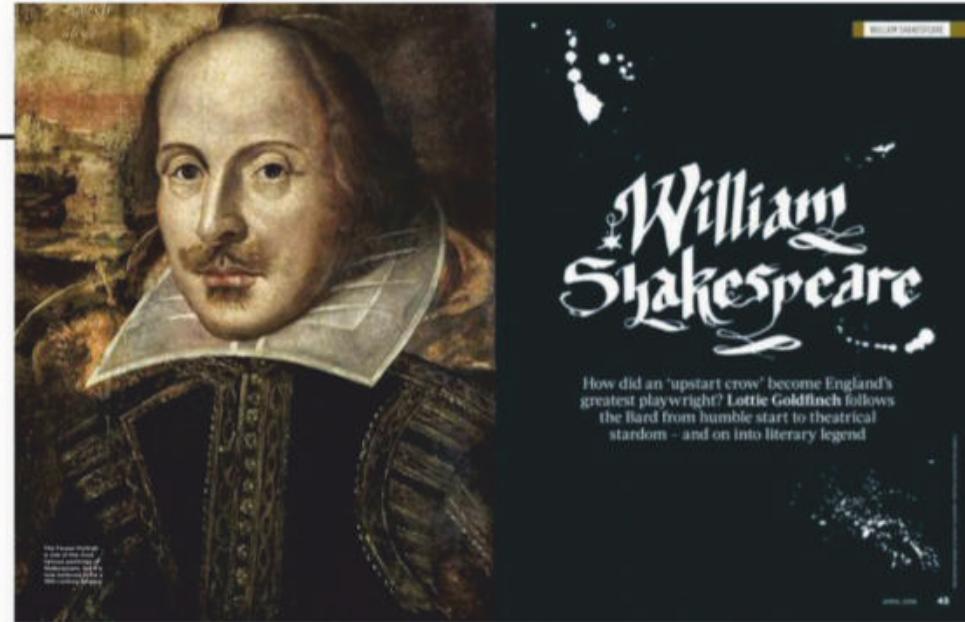
a struggle for power. Succession comes at a high price; that, to answer Mandy Cowgill's letter, is why, whether you're at school or at university, the teaching of this subject is a two-sided coin. There are winners and losers in the game of life, and personality as well as strength of character decides which side the coin will eventually turn up.

✉ **Duncan McVee,**
via email

NO CHOICE FOR RICHARD III?

Lauren Johnson's article 'Who killed the Princes in the Tower?' (issue 66) suggests that Richard III might not have ordered their deaths. Others of the far-flung Plantagenet kin, principally Henry Tudor and Henry Stafford, Duke of Buckingham, had an interest in the disappearance of the boys.

Buckingham's chances were too slight for him to take the risk. The most obvious



LITERATURE'S GREAT ENIGMA

We know surprisingly little about England's most famous playwright – even his birth date is a best guess

beneficiary of the boys' deaths, Henry Tudor, was too squeamish. When he became Henry VII, he fabricated a charge of treason against the long-imprisoned Earl of Warwick, innocent of everything except having royal blood. Henry had him executed. He agonised over this. It needed the virtual promise of absolution and the threat that Spain would not send Catherine of Aragon to marry Prince Arthur that pushed him to this judicial killing. Murdering the

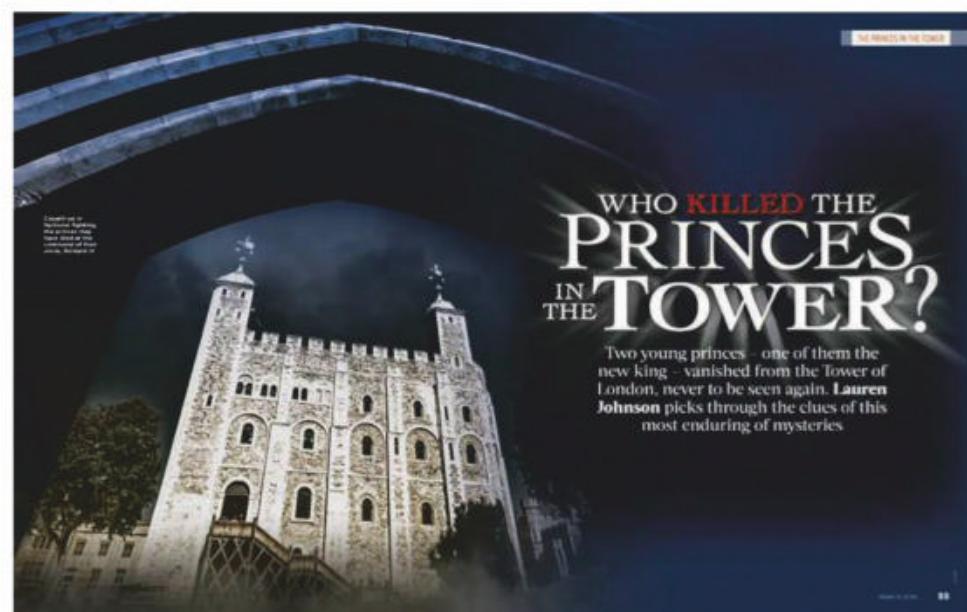
two princes would have been out of the question.

It must be said that Richard had little choice. If the Woodvilles were to control young Edward V, Richard's position as ruler of the north would have been under threat, and with it the lives of his wife and son. He might have heeded Edward IV's deathbed plea for all the young heir's relatives to pull together. But could he take the risk?

Hence the gamble on kingship. Pre-emptive arrests, illegal executions, allegations of bastardy and intimidated assemblies were his stepping-stones to power. It was a putsch rather than a coup, despite the trappings of orderly succession. Almost at once a plot to free the boys was hatched and stifled. Richard could not take the risk of letting them live. If they escaped, their bastardisation could be reversed and Richard would die for treason, as his brother George, Duke of Clarence, had done.

Richard was guilty but there was no real alternative for him.

✉ **Margaret Brown,**
Stoke-on-Trent



GUILTY AS CHARGED

Margaret believes that Richard III bumped off his nephews, but that it was still his best chance of survival

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The lucky winners of the crossword from issue 66 are:

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C M Cooksey, Sutton Coldfield
J Sandiford, Slough

Congratulations! You've each won a copy of David Tremain's **Double Agent Victoire** in hardback.

HISTORY REVEALED

Bringing the past to life

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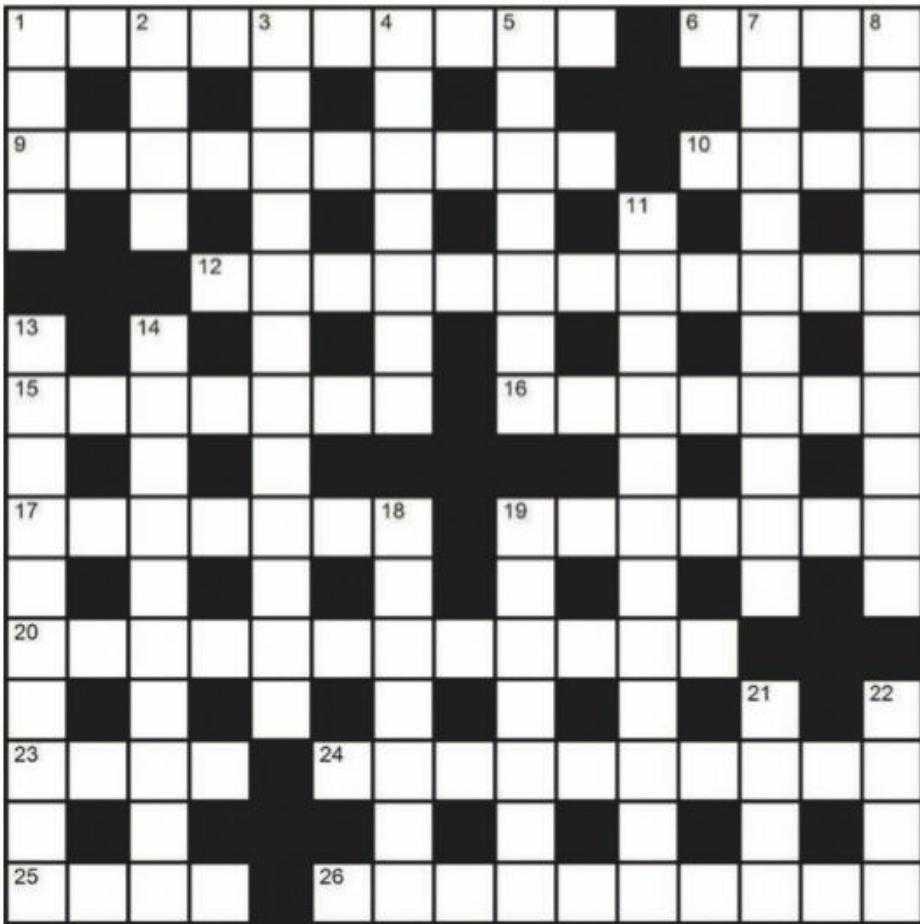
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CROSSWORD N° 69

Test your history knowledge to solve our prize puzzle – and you could win a fantastic new book

Set by Richard Smyth



ACROSS

1 Term used by Mao Zedong to describe US imperialism (5,5)
 6 "If you are ___, be not solitary; if you are solitary, be not ___" – quote by Samuel Johnson, 1779 (4)
 9 US actor, Oscar-winning star of *High Noon* (1952) (4,6)
 10 Fritz ___ (1890–1976), Expressionist filmmaker (4)
 12 Portrait model (1765–1815); best remembered as mistress of Horatio Nelson (4,8)
 15 Roman playwright of the 2nd century BC (7)
 16 ___ Beach, Florida city once dubbed 'the world's most famous beach' (7)
 17 Russian ruling dynasty, 1613–1917 (7)

19 Historic city of the Emilia-Romagna region (7)

20 *The ___*, 1947 poem by WH Auden or 1948–9 symphony by Leonard Bernstein (3,2,7)

23 Series of spotters' guides for children, popular in the 1950s and 60s (1-3)

24 1826 poem by Felicia Dorothea Hemans, about an incident at the Battle of the Nile in 1798 (10)

25 Queen of England from 1553 to 1558 (4)

26 Noble title traditionally granted to the monarch's second son (4,2,4)

DOWN

1 Bettie ___ (1923–2008), American pin-up model (4)

2 In Persian mythology, winged spirits known for their beauty (4)

3 Sergei ___ (1873–1943), Russian composer (12)

4 Archeological period associated with the emergence of ferrous metallurgy (4,3)

5 Class of light cruiser for the Royal Navy, first commissioned in 1926 (7)

7 To successfully evade military conscription (5,5)

8 English philologist and murderer (1704–59), commemorated in literature and film (6,4)

11 *The ___*, English title sometimes given to the 1948 film *Ladri di Biciclette* (7,5)

13 Philosophy concerning the nature of time (10)

14 Traditional personification of death (4,6)

18 Pacific island republic founded in 1980 (7)

19 In the British Army, a formation of three infantry battalions or three cavalry or armoured regiments (7)

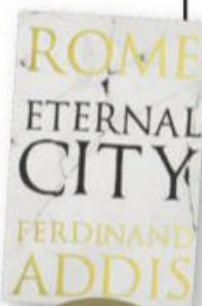
21 Form of traditional Japanese folk music (4)

22 Jonas ___ (1914–95), American developer of a vaccine for polio (4)

CHANCE TO WIN

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by Ferdinand Addis



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Post entries to **History Revealed, June 2019 Crossword, PO Box 501, Leicester LE9 4 OAA** or email them to june2019@historyrevealedcomps.co.uk by noon on 1 July 2019.

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SOLUTION N° 67



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WILD!
WAS THE
WEST?

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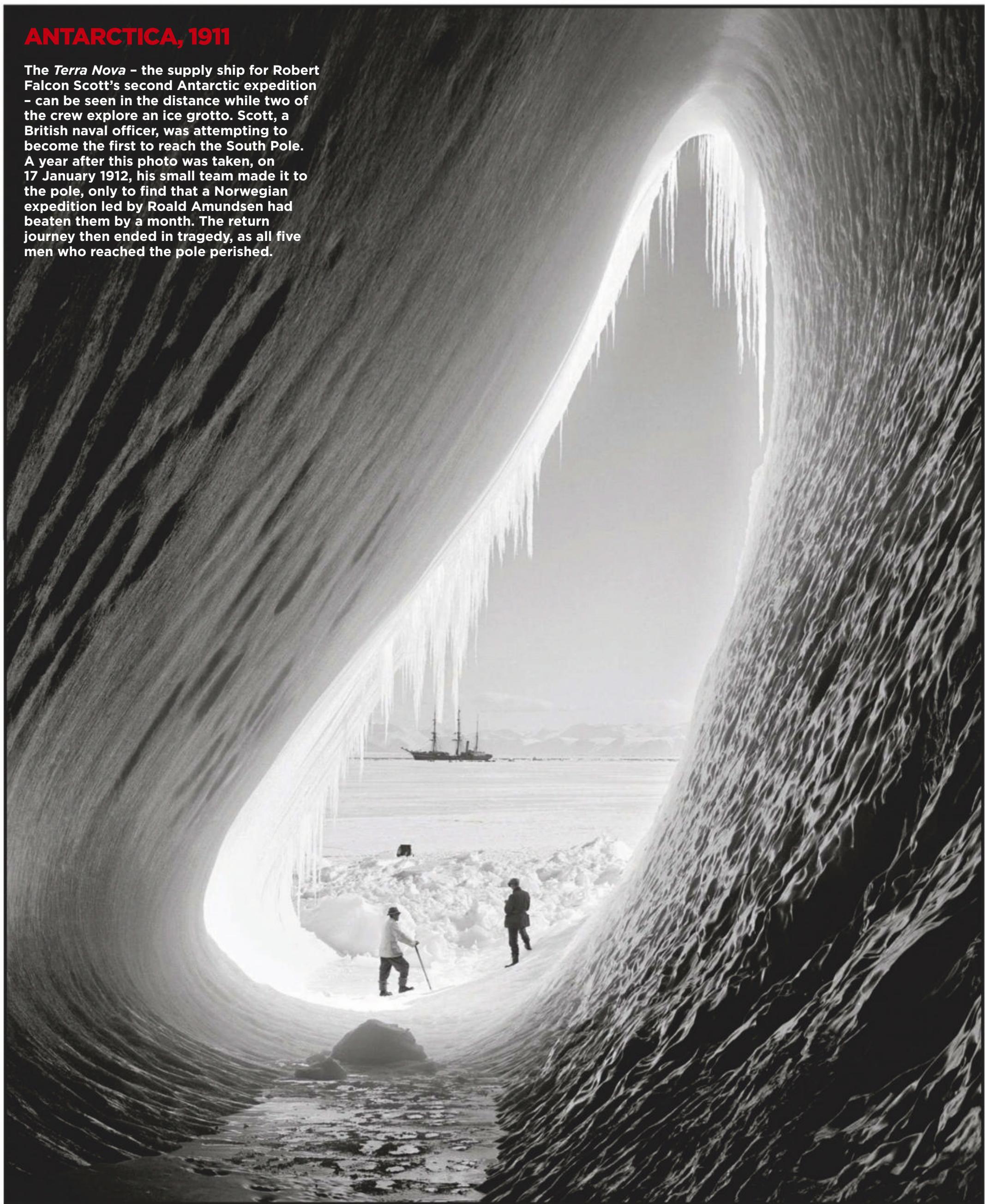
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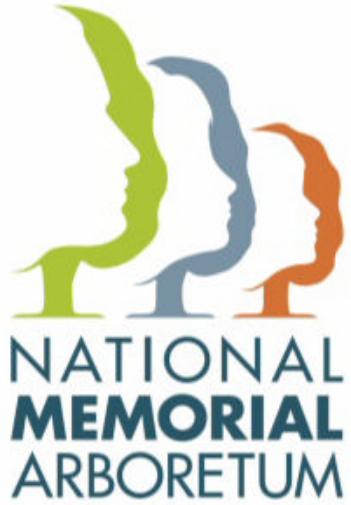
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HISTORY
REVEALED

ANTARCTICA, 1911

The *Terra Nova* – the supply ship for Robert Falcon Scott's second Antarctic expedition – can be seen in the distance while two of the crew explore an ice grotto. Scott, a British naval officer, was attempting to become the first to reach the South Pole. A year after this photo was taken, on 17 January 1912, his small team made it to the pole, only to find that a Norwegian expedition led by Roald Amundsen had beaten them by a month. The return journey then ended in tragedy, as all five men who reached the pole perished.





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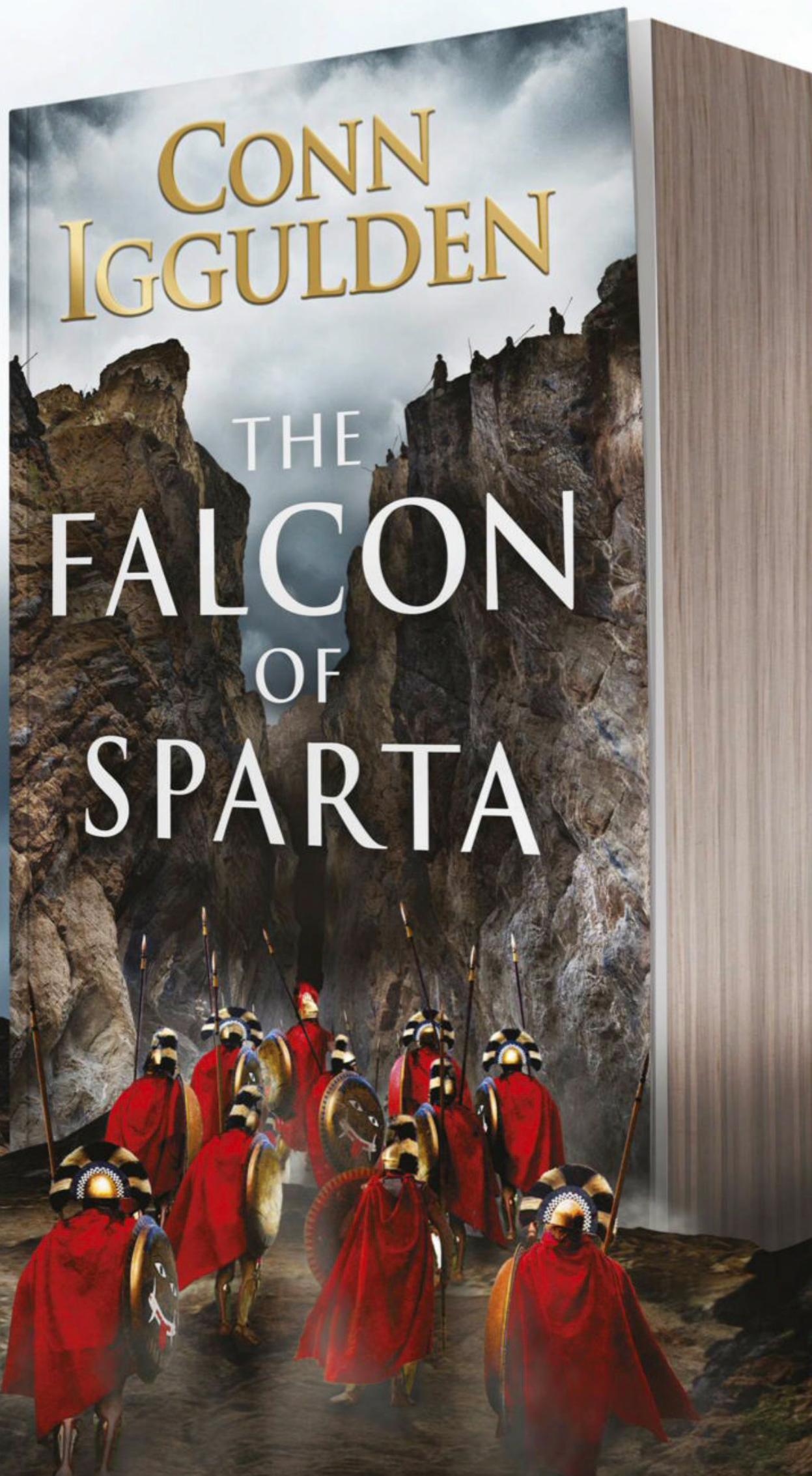
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